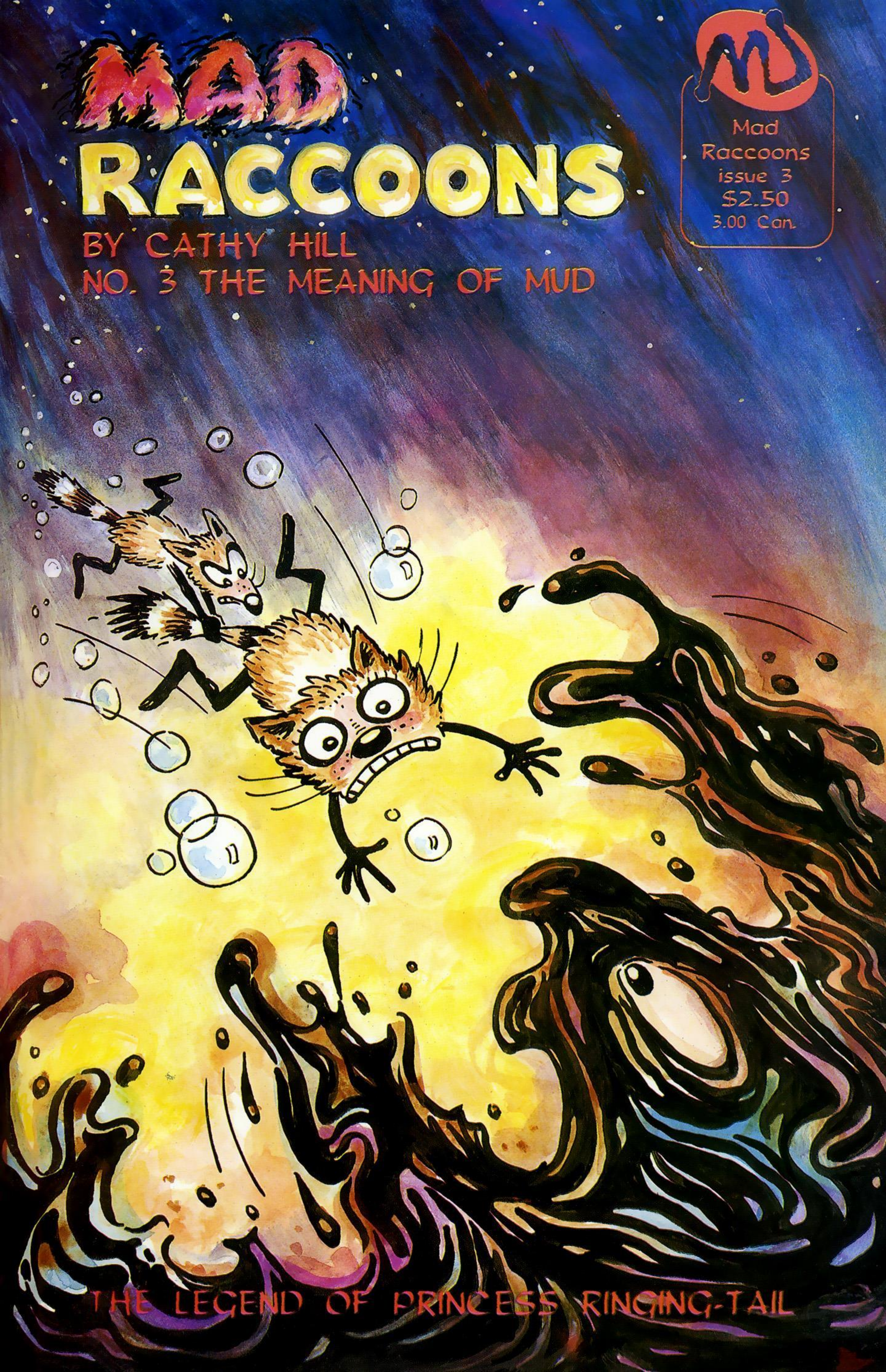
MAD RACCOONS

BY CATHY HILL

NO. 3 THE MEANING OF MUD



Mad Raccoons
issue 3
$2.50
3.00 Can.

THE LEGEND OF PRINCESS RINGING-TAIL

MU Press presents the world of Cathy Hill's Mad Raccoons

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Written and Illustrated by Cathy Hill

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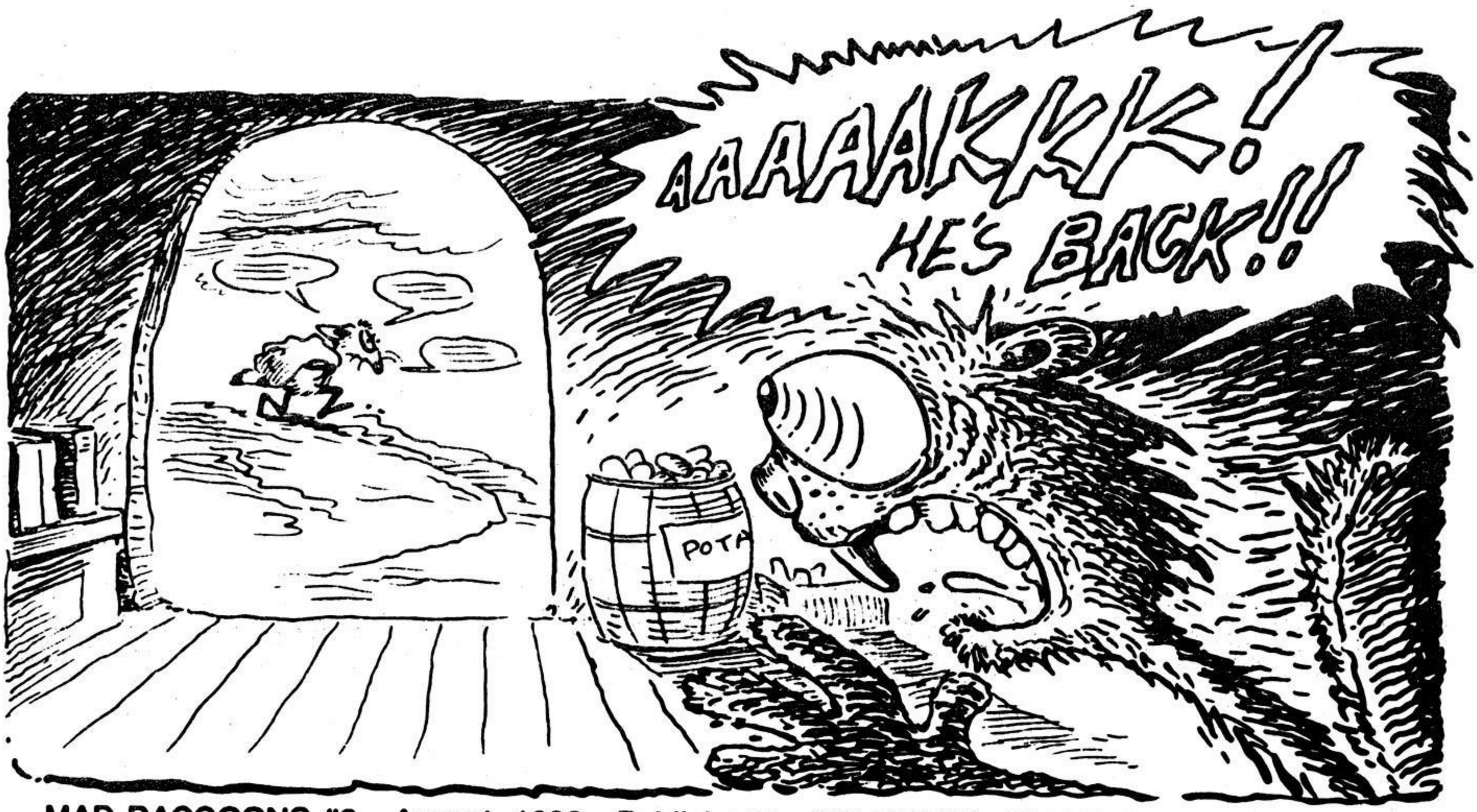

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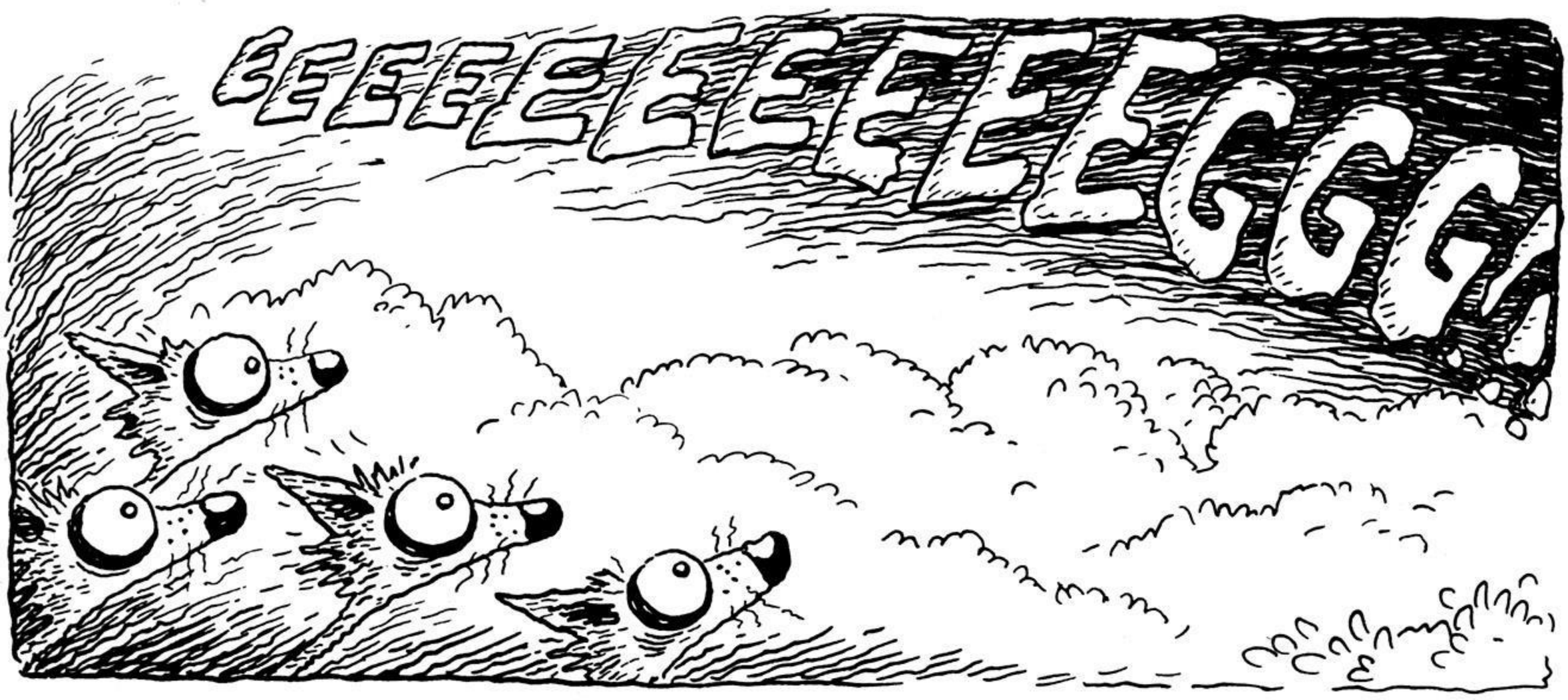
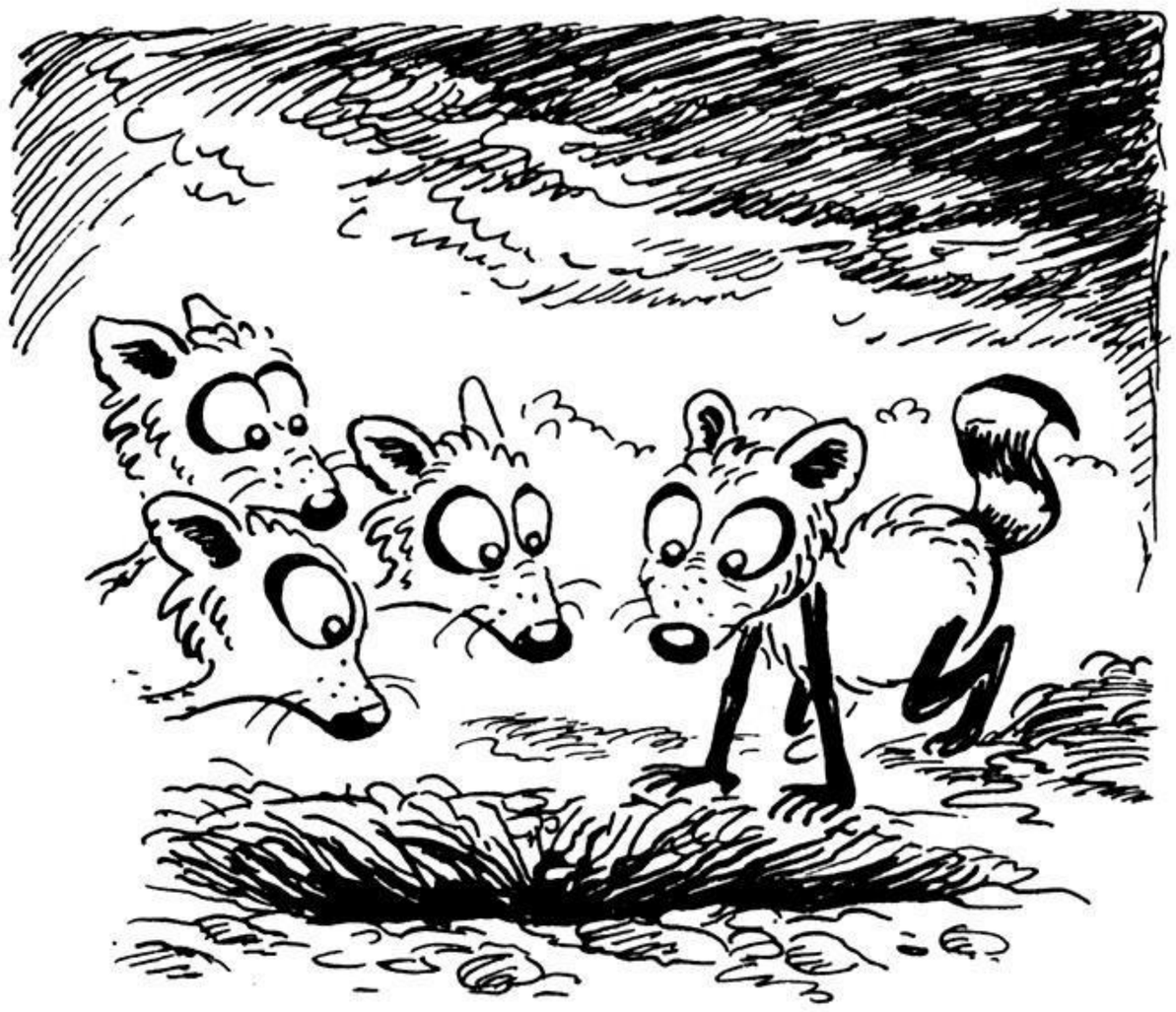
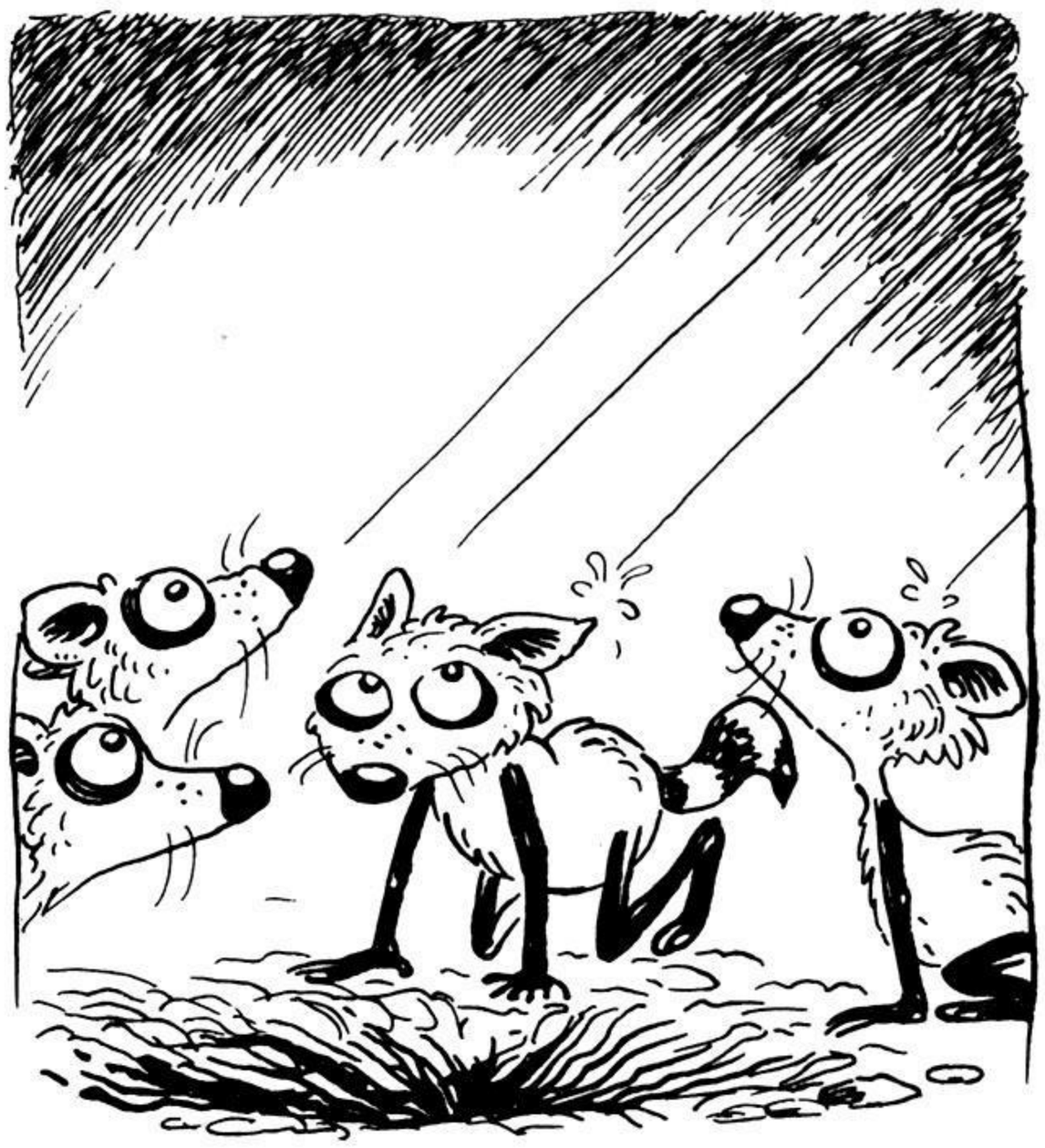
VIRGIL INADVERTANTLY GETS PURIFIED

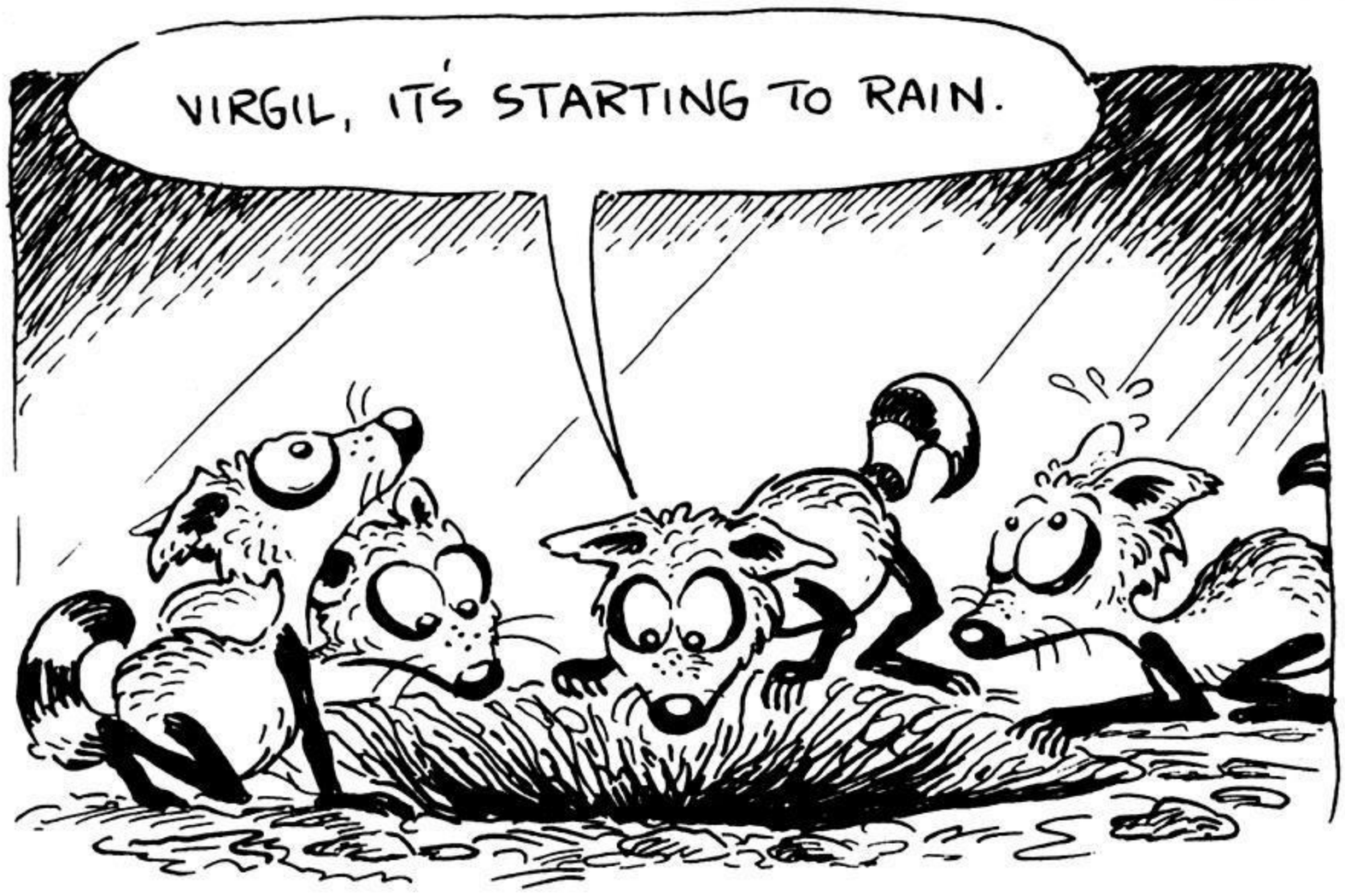


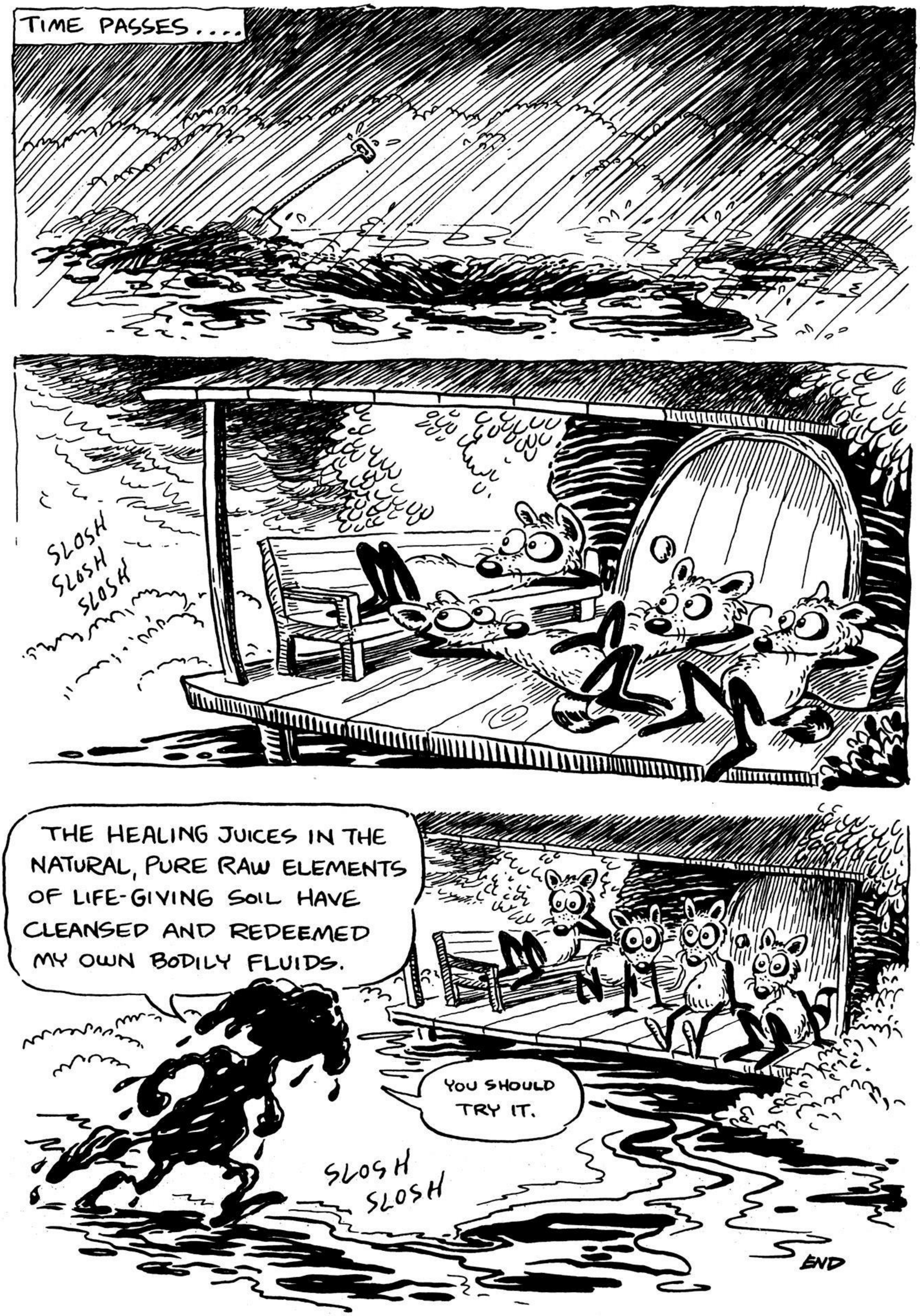
VIRGIL?
KA-CHUNK!
I'M DIGGING A HOLE AND I'M GOING IN! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!
I'M GOING INTO THE DEPTH AND DARKNESS OF THE GROUND! YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN!
I'M DISAPPEARING FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH! FOREVER! FOREVER!! SHOVE THE DIRT IN AFTER ME!! GO ON! GO ON! BURY ME! BURY ME!! ... AND NEVER DIG ME UP AGAIN!!

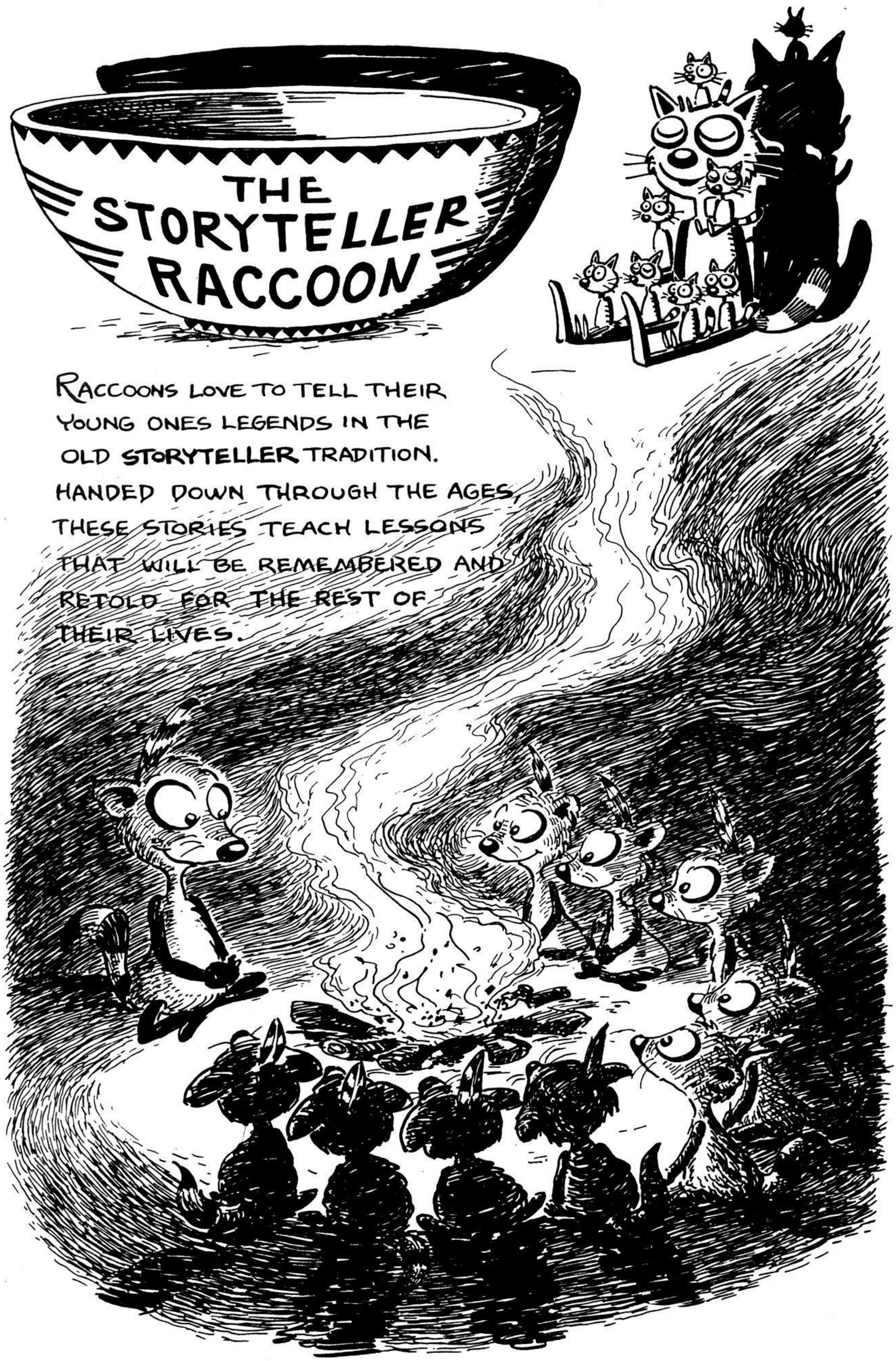


VIRGIL?

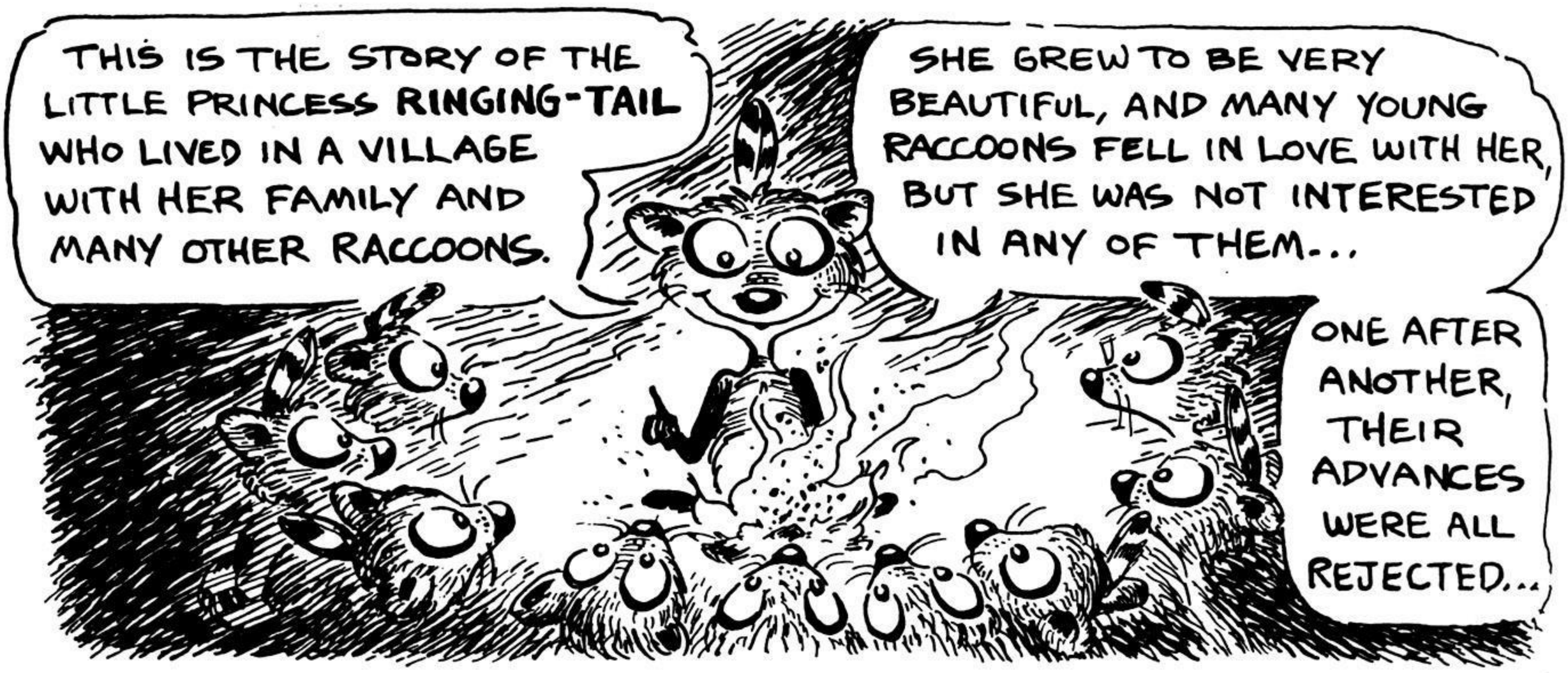



VIRGIL, IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.


TIME PASSES....
SLOSH
SLOSH
SLOSH
THE HEALING JUICES IN THE NATURAL, PURE RAW ELEMENTS OF LIFE-GIVING SOIL HAVE CLEANSED AND REDEEMED MY OWN BODILY FLUIDS.
YOU SHOULD TRY IT.
SLOSH
SLOSH
END


THE STORYTELLER RACCOON
RACCOONS LOVE TO TELL THEIR YOUNG ONES LEGENDS IN THE OLD STORYTELLER TRADITION. HANDED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES, THESE STORIES TEACH LESSONS THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED AND RETOLD FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

THE LEGEND OF PRINCESS RINGING-TAIL



...EVEN THE ATTENTIONS OF SHINING-WHISKER, THE HANDSOMEST RACCOON IN THE TRIBE...

...SHE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN PLANTING PARSNIPS.

ONE SUMMER MORNING, SHE AWOKE AND WENT FOR A WALK ALONG THE RIVER WHERE SHE FOUND A MOUND OF MUD. A STRANGE FEELING CAME OVER HER AS SHE WATCHED THE CLUMP IN FASCINATION...

SHE GAZED INTENTLY AT IT, AND SO BEAUTIFUL DID IT SEEM THAT SHE FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH IT.

SHE RAN HOME TO AWAKEN HER SISTER AND TOLD HER THAT SHE WOULD MARRY NOBODY BUT CLUMP-OF-MUD.

THE RACCOONS OF HER TRIBE LAUGHED AT HER FOR WHAT THEY CONSIDERED A RIDICULOUS PREFERENCE.

SO SHE WANDERED ALONE AVOIDING EVERYONE...

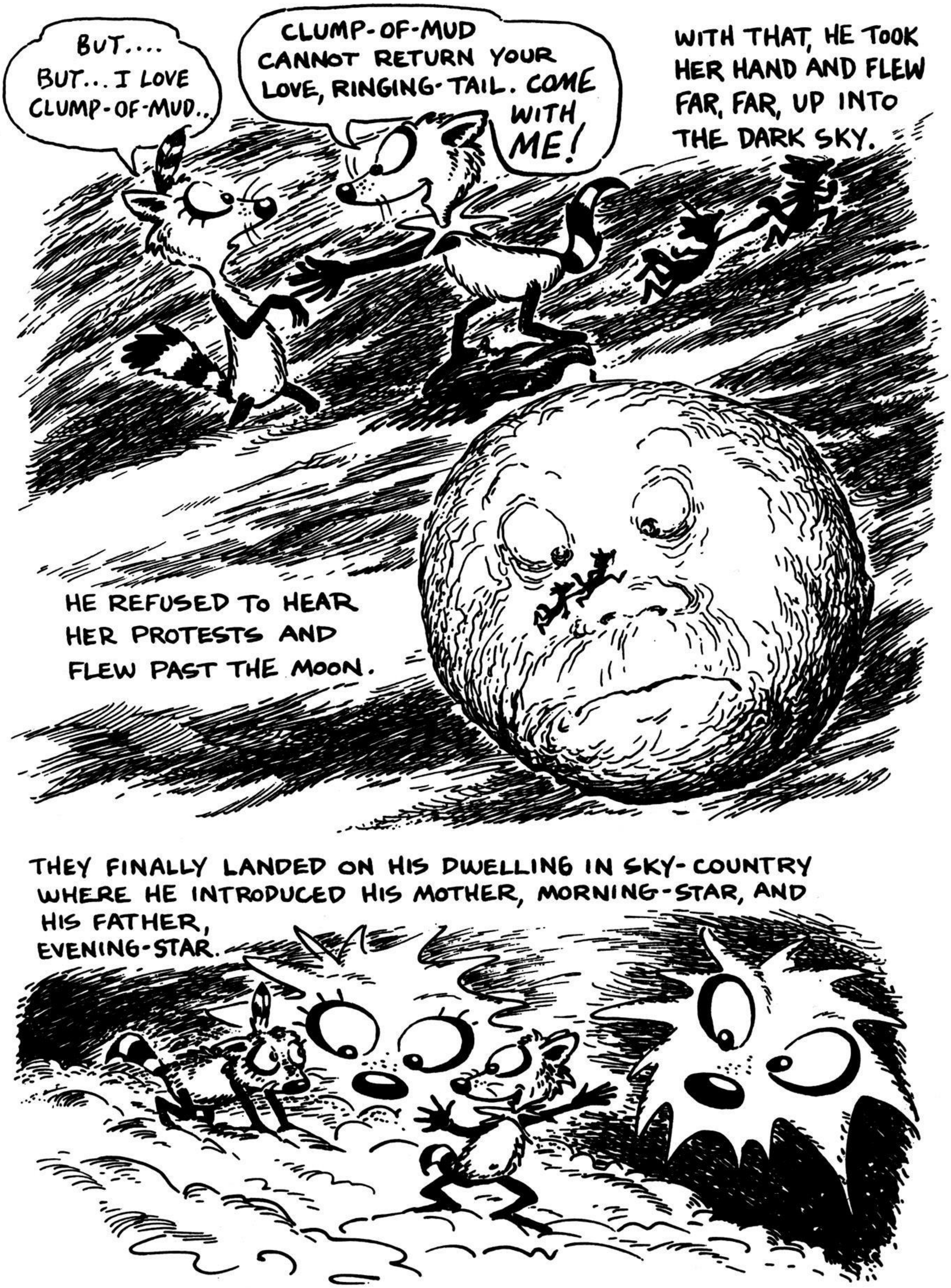
SHE SAT FOR MANY HOURS EATING HER HEART OUT IN SECRET LOVE FOR CLUMP-OF MUD WHO SEEMED TO HER UNATTAINABLE.

ONE NIGHT, WHEN RINGING-TAIL WENT TO THE RIVER TO STARE AT THE MUD, SHE SAW A STRANGE FIGURE *SHIMMERING* IN THE LIGHT.

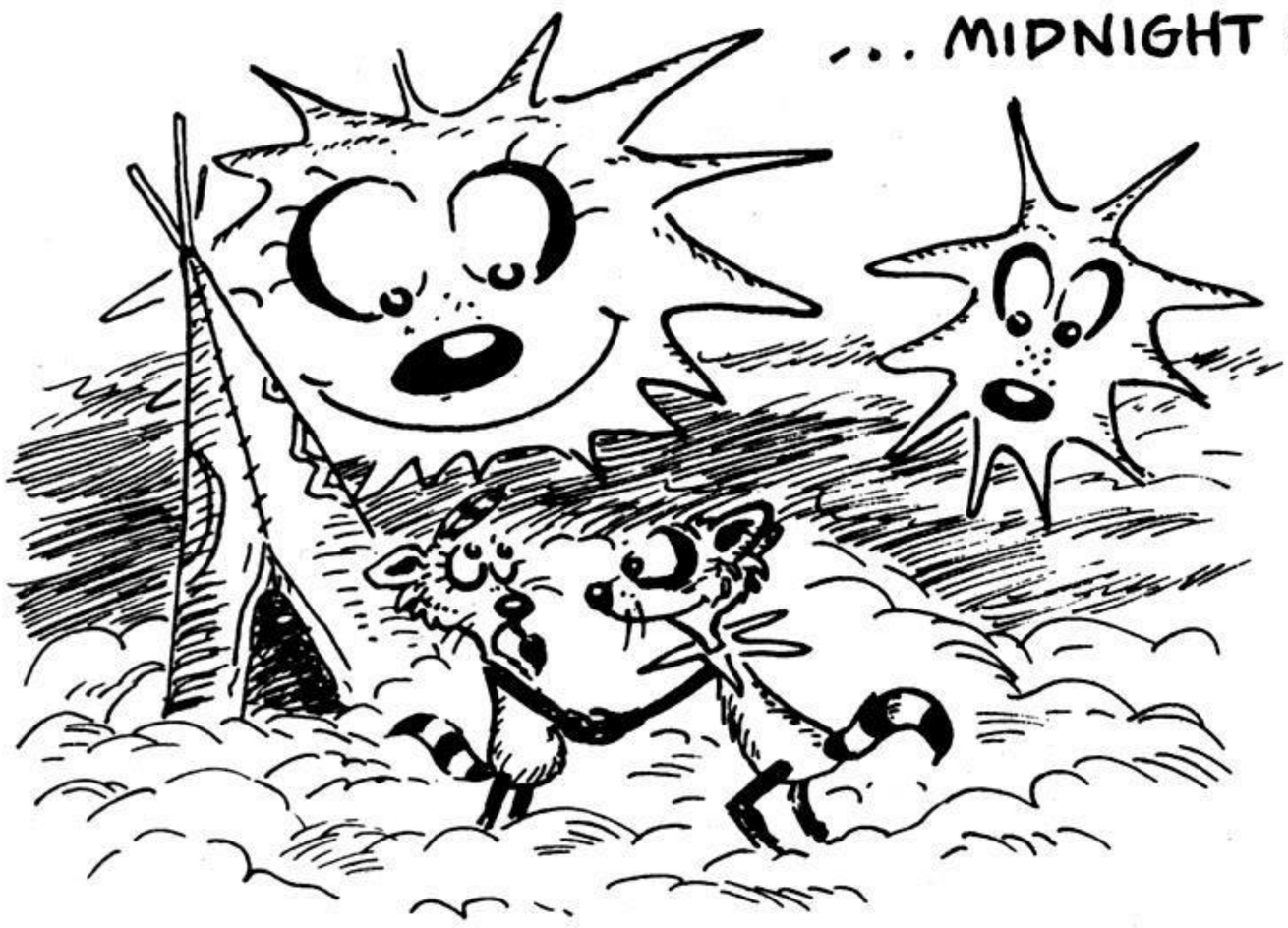
AT FIRST, SHE THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE YOUNG RACCOONS OF THE TRIBE, BUT THEN SHE REALIZED THAT SHE DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM **MIDNIGHT STAR.** I BEHELD YOUR LOVING GAZE WHICH REFLECTED OFF THE SHINE OF THIS MUD, UP INTO THE SKY. I AM RETURNING YOUR *LOVE* AND HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU TO MY DWELLING IN THE CLOUDS.


BUT....
BUT... I LOVE CLUMP-OF-MUD..
CLUMP-OF-MUD CANNOT RETURN YOUR LOVE, RINGING-TAIL. COME WITH ME!
WITH THAT, HE TOOK HER HAND AND FLEW FAR, FAR, UP INTO THE DARK SKY.
HE REFUSED TO HEAR HER PROTESTS AND FLEW PAST THE MOON.
THEY FINALLY LANDED ON HIS DWELLING IN SKY-COUNTRY WHERE HE INTRODUCED HIS MOTHER, MORNING-STAR, AND HIS FATHER, EVENING-STAR.

MORNING STAR AND EVENING STAR WERE VERY KIND TO HER AND CONSIDERED HER ONE OF THEM...



... MIDNIGHT STAR LAVISHED HER WITH LOVE...

SHE SPENT HER DAYS PLANTING PARSNIPS IN THE CLOUDS, WHERE THEY GREW VERY WELL.

MORNING STAR GAVE HER A SOFT ROBE OF STARS...

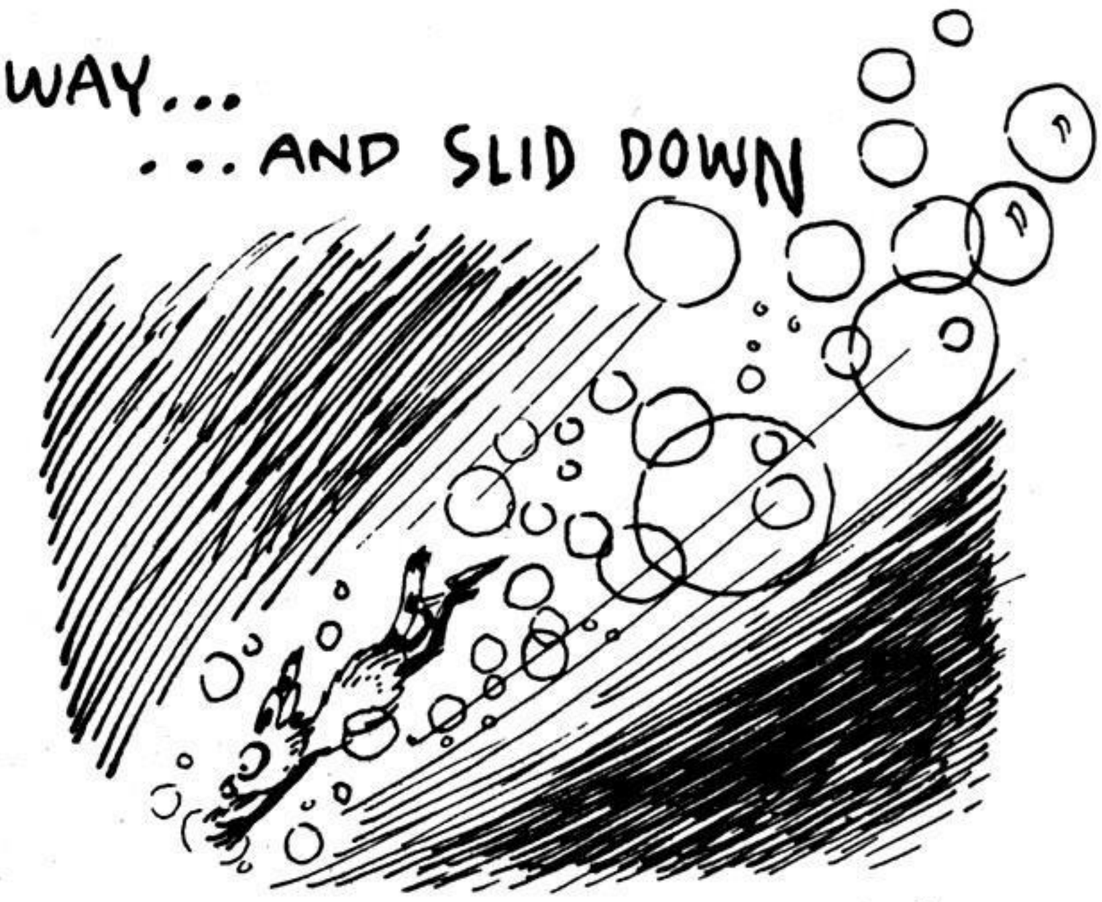
... BUT, IT WAS NO USE... HER TEARS MELTED THE THREADS.

RINGING-TAIL WAS STILL IN LOVE WITH CLUMP-OF-MUD AND COULD ONLY THINK OF HIM.

ONE MIDNIGHT, WHEN MIDNIGHT STAR WAS GONE TO HIS POST IN THE SKY, SHE DARED TO ESCAPE!

SHE GRABBED A DROP OF THE MILKY WAY...

...AND SLID DOWN



RINGING-TAIL SAILED THROUGH THE DARK SKY.

BUT MIDNIGHT STAR SAW HER ESCAPING...

...AND SHOT AFTER HER IN ANGER...

HE TRIED TO BRING HER BACK...

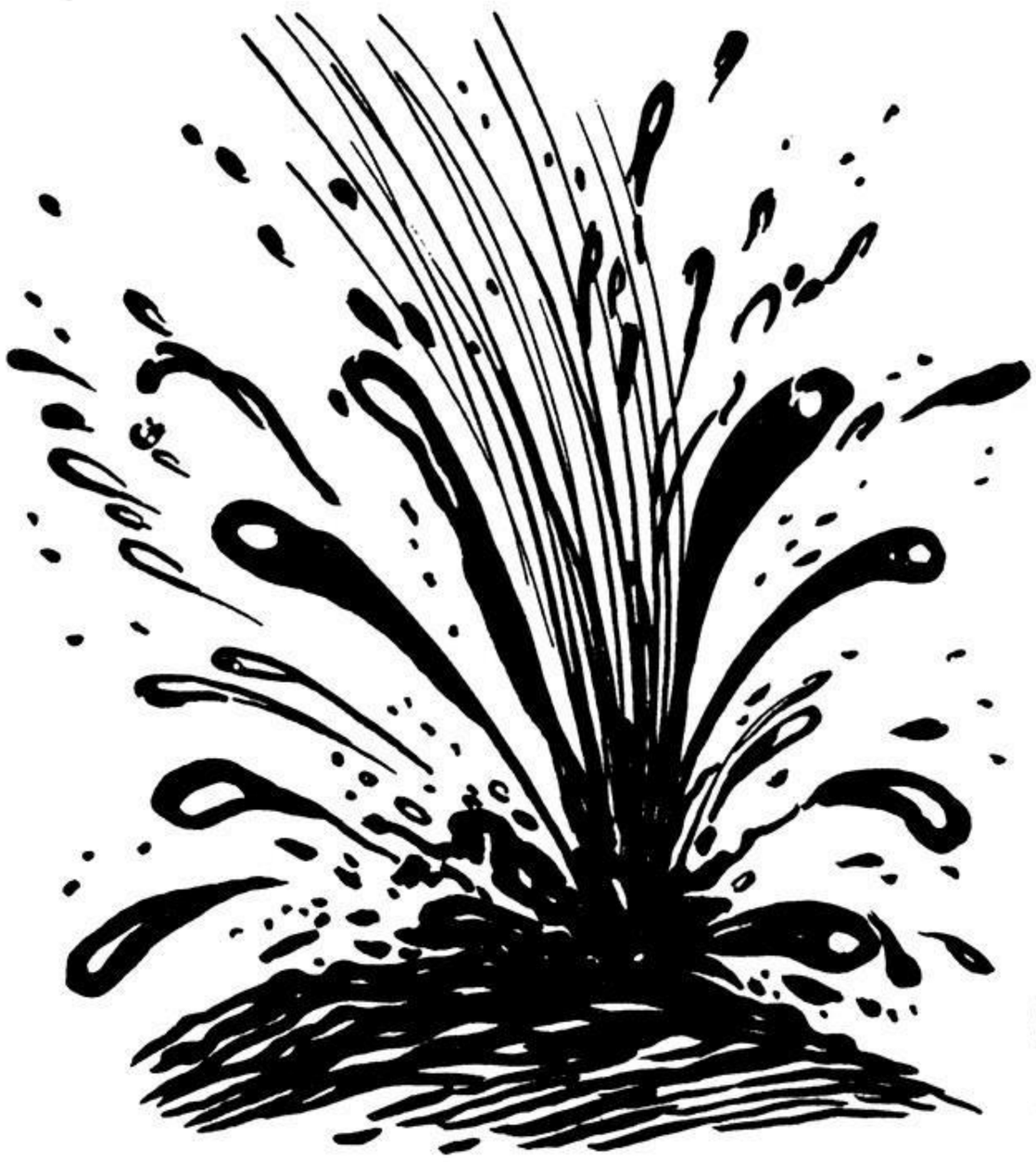
NO! NO! I DON'T LOVE YOU! I LOVE CLUMP-OF-MUD! CLUMP-OF-MUD!

CLUMP-OF-MUD!!

CLUMP-OF MUD FINALLY STIRRED...

....AND WITH A MIGHTY ROAR OF PASSION, HE SOARED UPWARD IN A MUDDY SURGE AND GRABBED RINGING-TAIL!

HE THEN DESCENDED WITH HER IN A HUGE PLOP THAT SHOOK THE EARTH!



EVERYONE HEARD THE UPROAR AND WAS FRIGHTENED!..

ALL THE TRIBE CAME TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED, BUT NOTHING WAS THERE BUT MUD...

THE LAND WAS ENCHANTED AND THEY COULD FEEL IT.

RINGING-TAIL WAS FINALLY AT PEACE IN THE MUD.

FOREVER AFTER, THE GROUND WHERE CLUMP-OF-MUD AND RINGING-TAIL HAD SUNK WAS THE MOST FERTILE SOIL ANYWHERE. PARSNIPS GREW PLENTIFULLY-FEEDING THE TRIBE FOR YEARS AND YEARS. AND EVERYONE WHO ATE THE PARSNIPS GREW IN WISDOM AND PASSION.

WHEN A FALLING STAR FALLS THROUGH THE DARK SKY, IT IS RINGING-TAIL COMING HOME; AND WHERE IT LANDS WILL BE RICH AND FERTILE SOIL FOR PLANTING.

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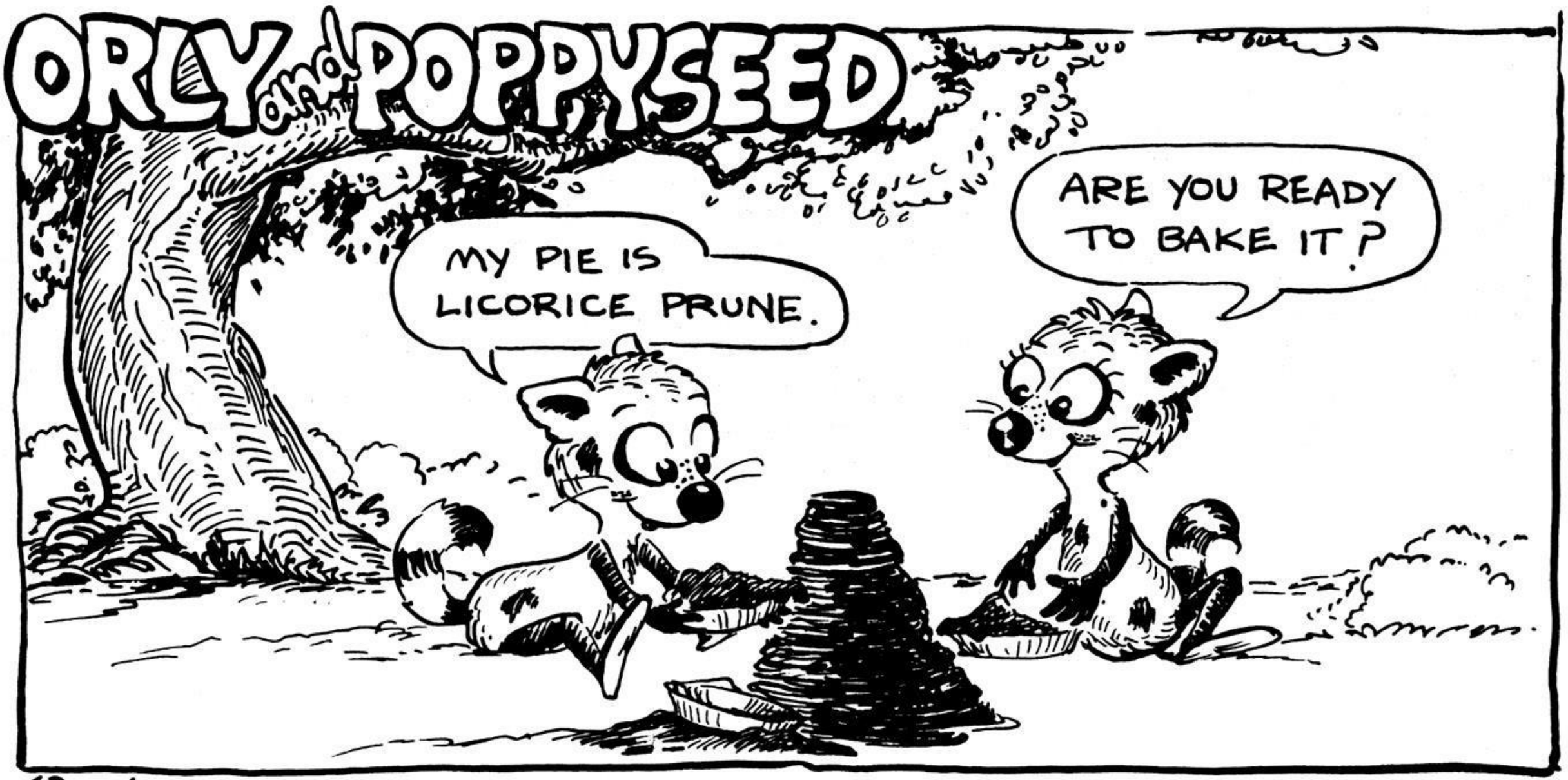
ORLY and POPPYSEED



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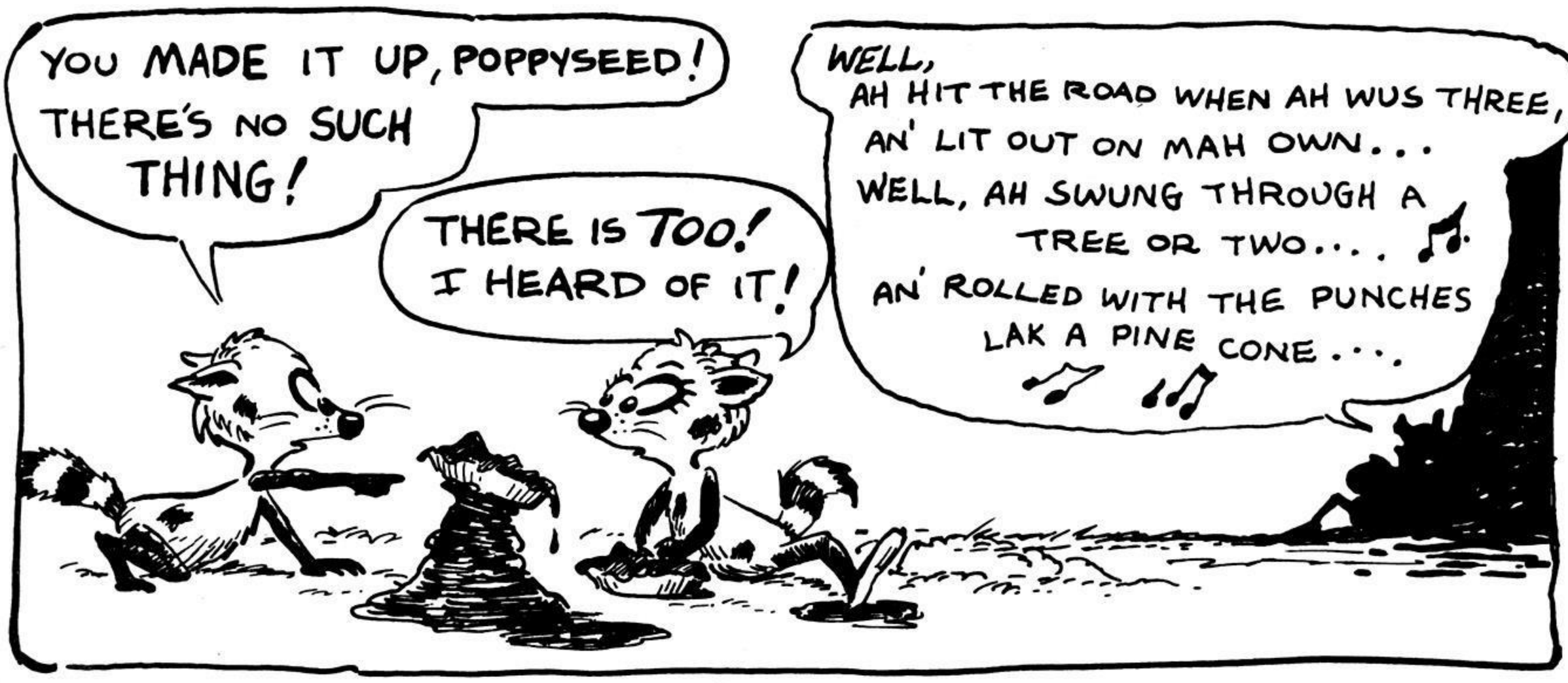
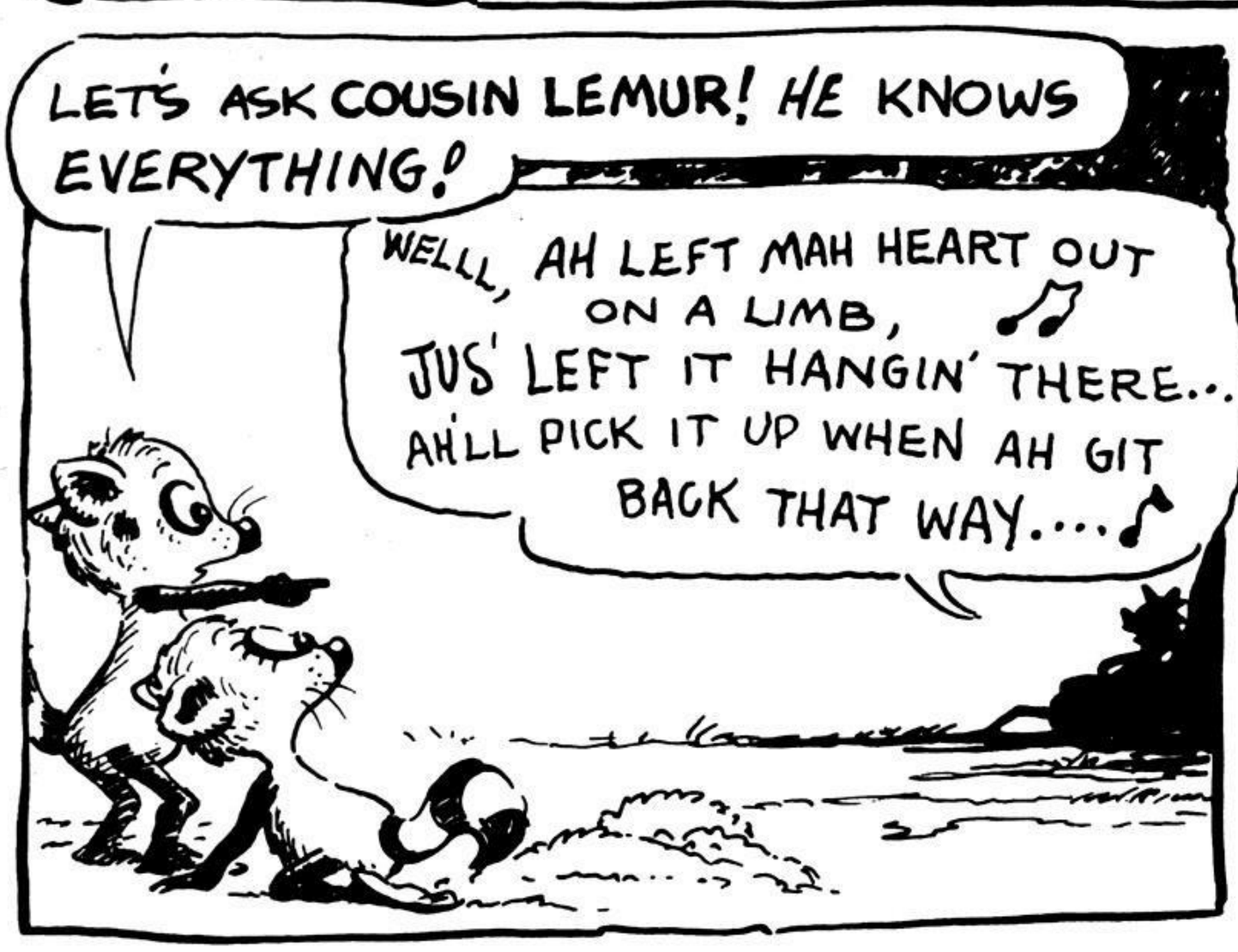
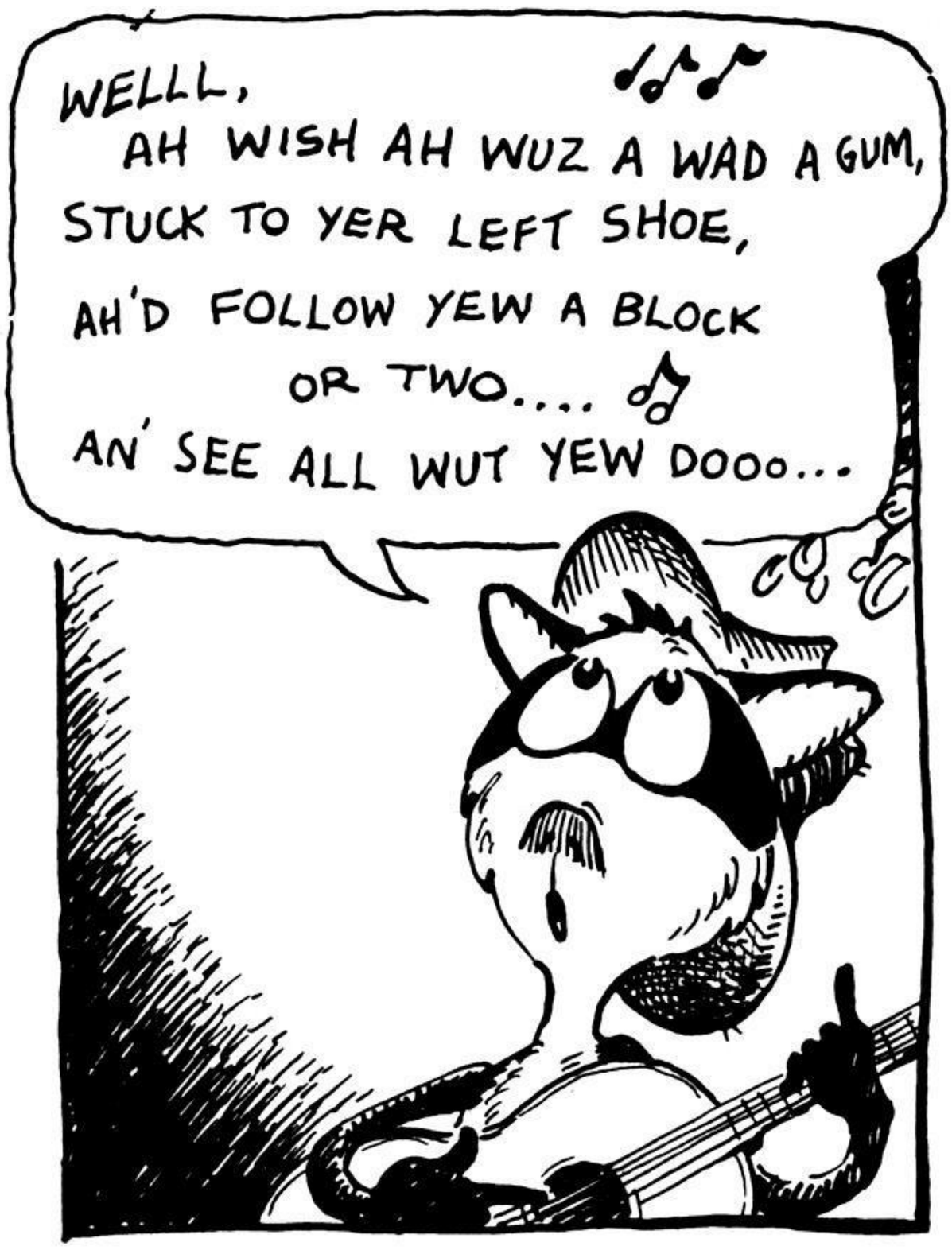

YOU MADE IT UP, POPPYSEED! THERE'S NO SUCH THING!
THERE IS TOO! I HEARD OF IT!
WELL, AH HIT THE ROAD WHEN AH WUS THREE, AN' LIT OUT ON MAH OWN... WELL, AH SWUNG THROUGH A TREE OR TWO.... AN' ROLLED WITH THE PUNCHES LAK A PINE CONE....


LET'S ASK COUSIN LEMUR! HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
WELLL, AH LEFT MAH HEART OUT ON A LIMB, JUS' LEFT IT HANGIN' THERE... AH'LL PICK IT UP WHEN AH GIT BACK THAT WAY....

COUSIN LEMUR, WHAT'S MUD, PASSIONATE LOVE?

MAYUD, PASSIONATE LUV! YEW CUM TO THE RAGHT BOY! AH KNOW A MYLLION SONGS ABOUT MAYUD, PASSIONATE LUV!

AH JUS' GOT TO TUNE 'UR UP HERE.


WELLL,
AH WISH AH WUZ A WAD A GUM,
STUCK TO YER LEFT SHOE,
AH'D FOLLOW YEW A BLOCK
OR TWO....
AN' SEE ALL WUT YEW DOOO...

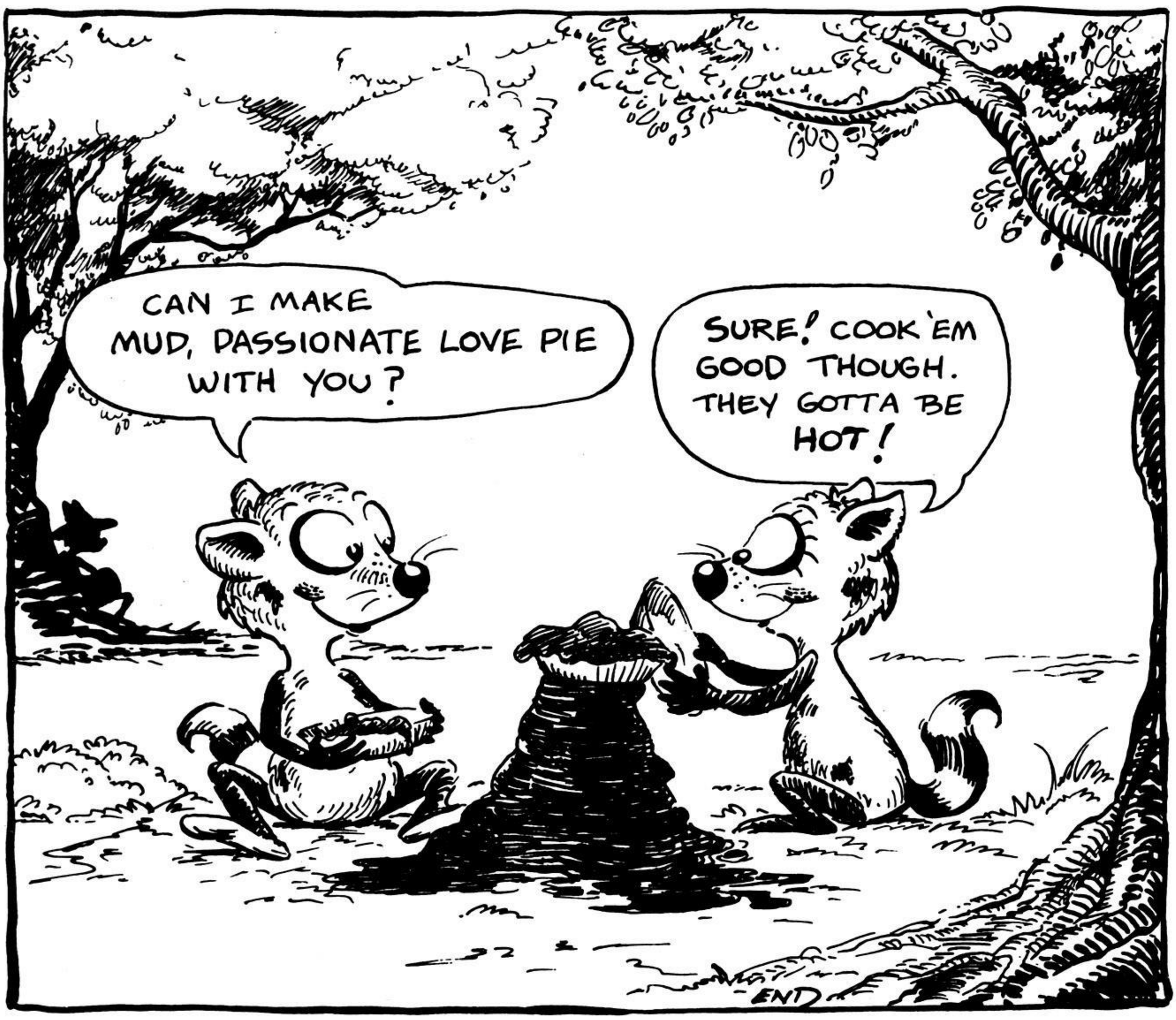
AH WISH AH WUZ A WAD A GUM,
STUCK TO YER RIGHT FOOT,
AH'D FOLLOW YEW THROUGH
THICK AN' THIN,
AN' WORSHUP WHERE YEW STOODT.

MUD, PASSIONATE LOVE IS A WAD OF GUM STUCK TO YOUR FOOT?
NO...

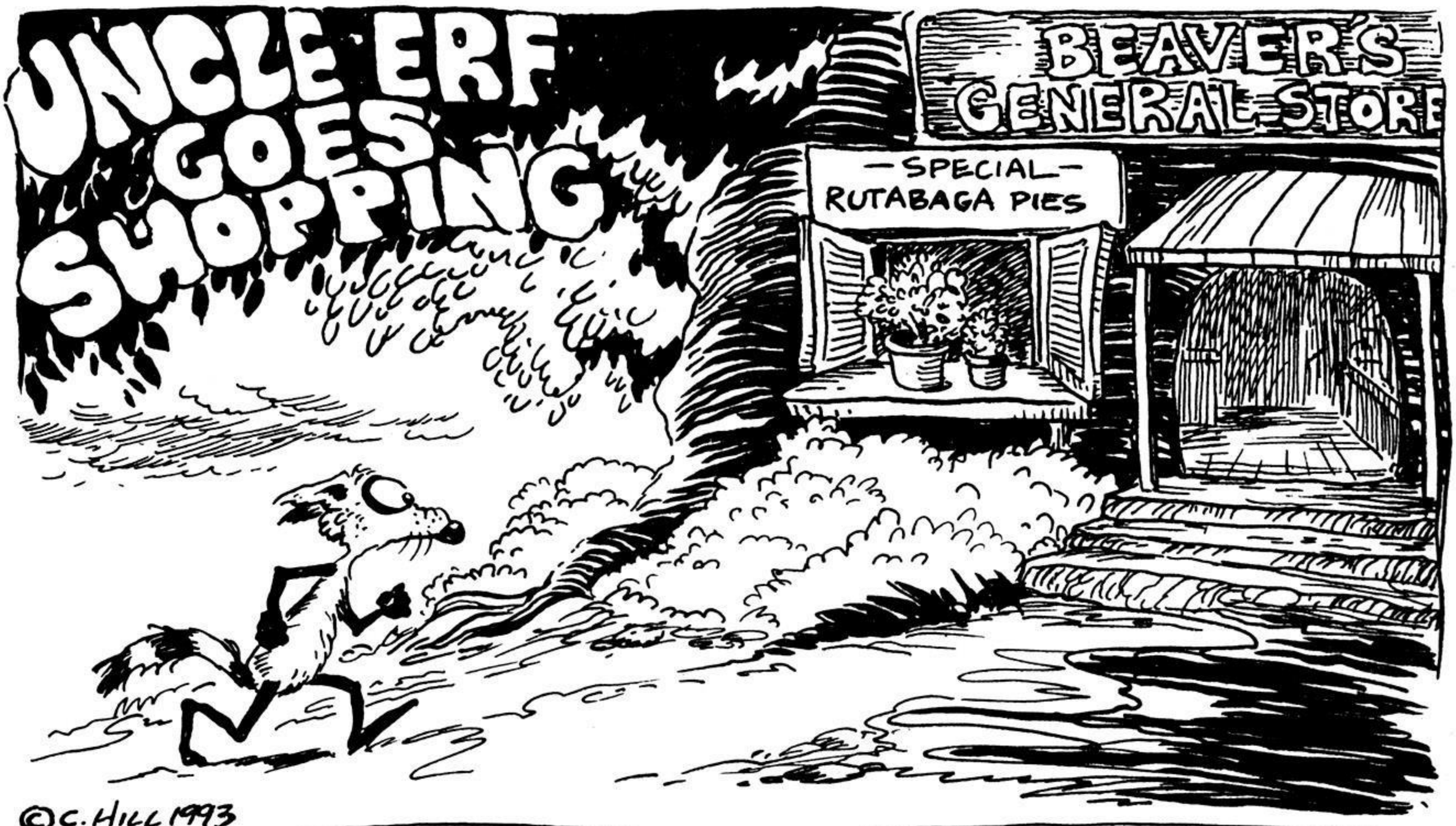
MAYUD, PASSIONATE LUV IS WANTIN' TO BE A WAD A GUM STUCK TO HER FOOT.

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO DO THAT, COUSIN LEMUR?
LUV GITS YEW INTO THE STICKIEST SITUATIONS.

SEE? I TOL' YOU THAT'S WHAT I WAS MAKING! A MUD, PASSIONATE LOVE PIE! AN' IT'S ALL STICKY TOO! I TOL' YOU!


CAN I MAKE MUD, PASSIONATE LOVE PIE WITH YOU?
SURE! COOK 'EM GOOD THOUGH. THEY GOTTA BE HOT!
END

UNCLE ERF GOES SHOPPING



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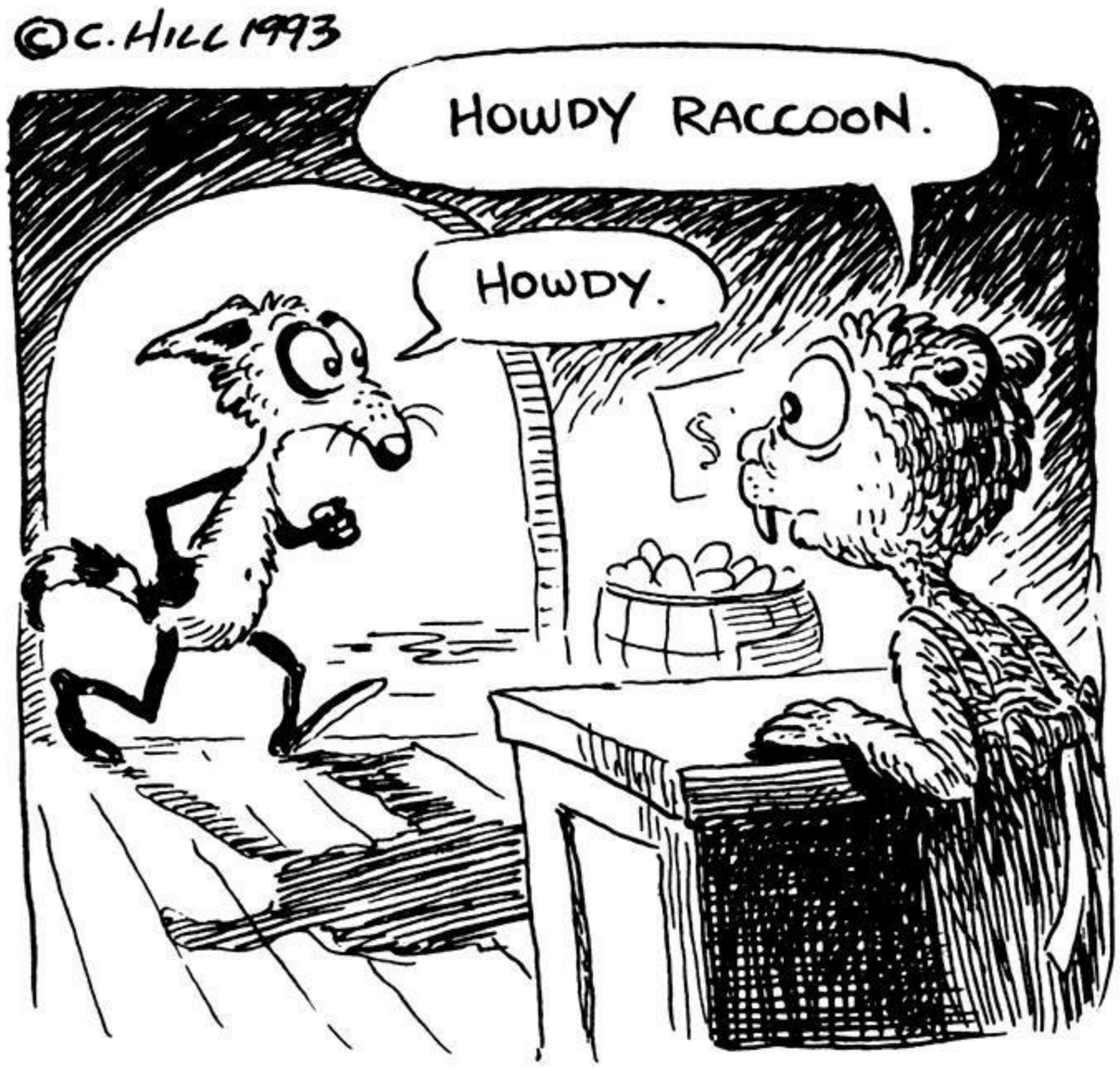
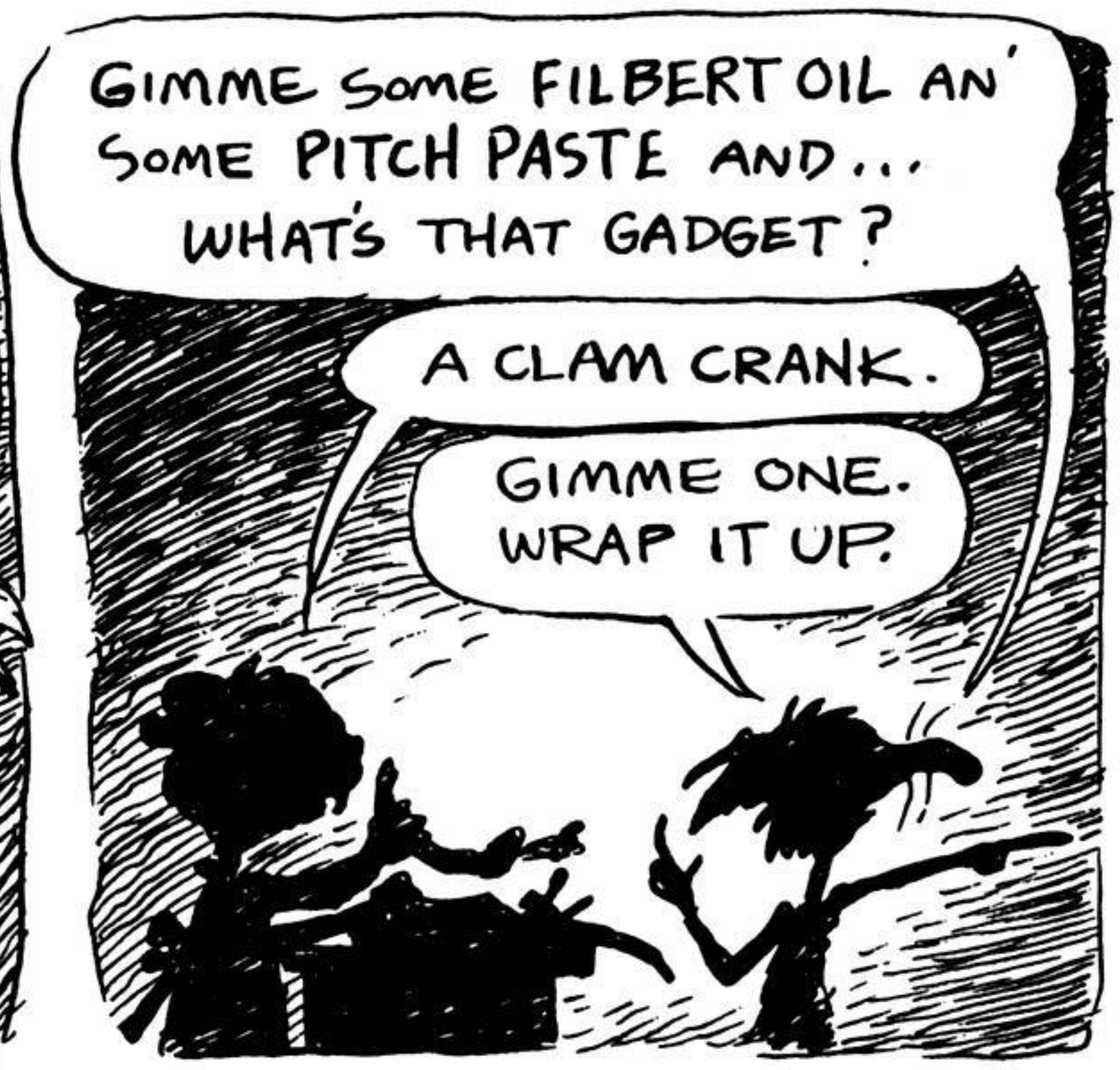


SAY, THAT'S A NICE HAT, I'LL GET THAT.
YOU WANT TO TRY IT ON?
NOPE. WRAP IT UP.


GIMME SOME FILBERT OIL AN' SOME PITCH PASTE AND... WHAT'S THAT GADGET?
A CLAM CRANK.
GIMME ONE. WRAP IT UP.

WRAP 'EM ALL UP... OH, AND A BOX OF CHOCOLATE-COVERED MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS FOR LITTLE FURLEY.
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
PITCH

WE GOT A SPECIAL ON RUTABAGA PIES... YOU LIKE 'EM?
HATE 'EM,
OH.
BUFFOONS

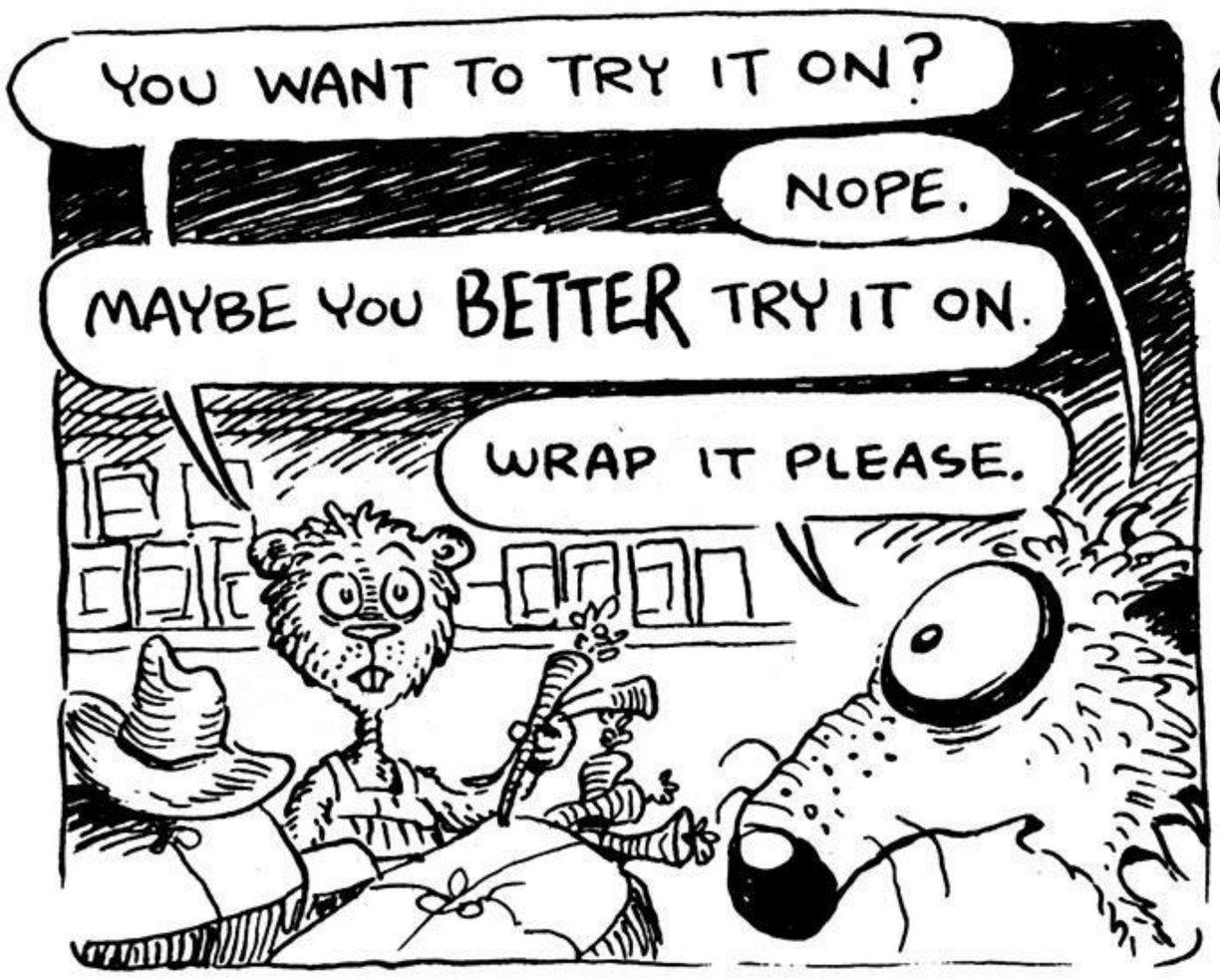
WELL, SEE YA...
SEE YA.

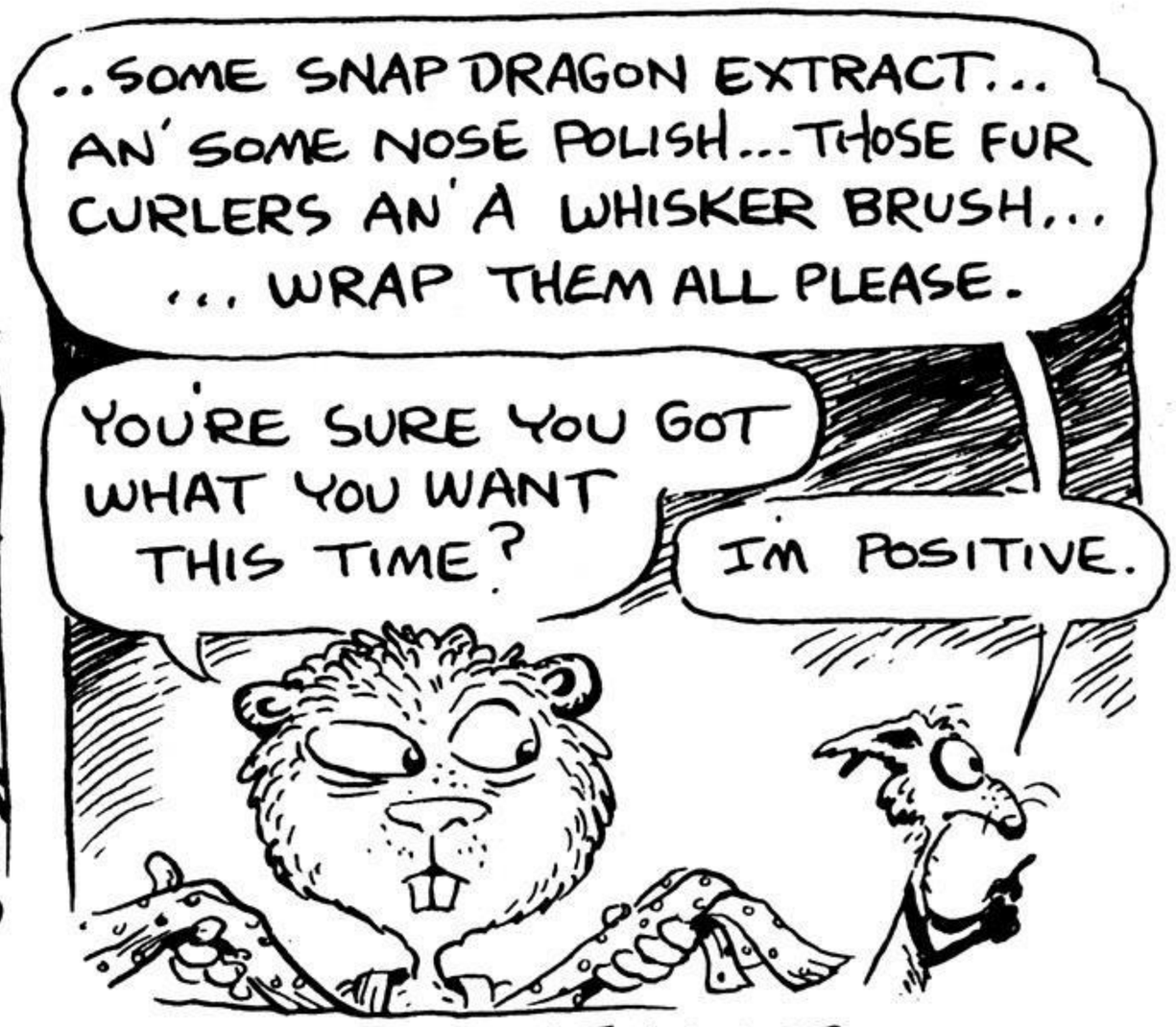
HI PANSY. I'M HOME.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I HAD TO CLEAN UP THE PLACE ALL BY MYSELF!

I JUST WENT TO BEAVERBURG TO BUY A FEW THINGS.
WHATJA GET? I NEED SOME SNAP DRAGON EXTRACT.

PARSNIPS! NOT PARSNIPS! I HATE 'EM! WHAT'S ALL THIS OTHER STUFF...? A RATTY LOOKING HAT! PITCH PASTE?? FILBERT OIL!? WHAT'S THIS THING??
A CLAM CRANK.
WHATA BUNCHA USELESS STUFF!!
NOW, WAIT A MINN'T! PANSY!
I WENT ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE TO SHOP FOR US AN' THATS ALL THE THANKS I GET?
THANKS FOR A LOTTA JUNK! NOW TAKE IT BACK!
YOU TAKE IT BACK, PANSY!

OK! OK, ERF! I'LL TAKE IT BACK! ... AND I'LL GET WHAT WE NEED!
FORGET SOMETHING?
NOPE.
I'M BRINGING ALL THIS JUNK BACK! HATS!! PASTE! CLAM CRANKS! ... AND I CAN'T STAND PARSNIPS!
YOU DON'T LIKE PARSNIPS?
I'VE HAD 'EM TWICE- THE FIRST AND LAST TIME!
THOUGHT YOU LOVED 'EM?
HATE 'EM.
OH.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH.. I LIKE THAT APRON.... I'LL TAKE IT.
BUFFOONS

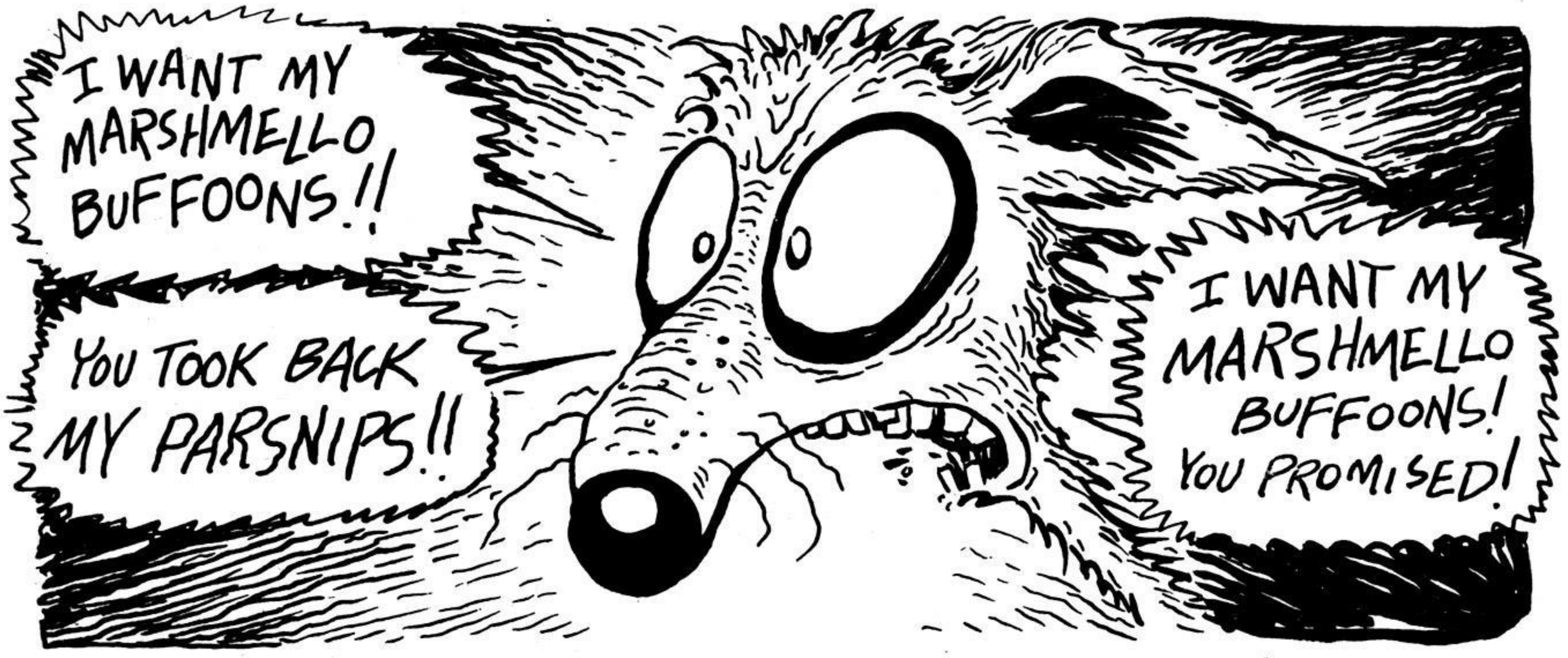

YOU WANT TO TRY IT ON?
NOPE.
MAYBE YOU BETTER TRY IT ON.
WRAP IT PLEASE.


..SOME SNAPDRAGON EXTRACT... AN' SOME NOSE POLISH...THOSE FUR CURLERS AN' A WHISKER BRUSH... ... WRAP THEM ALL PLEASE.
YOU'RE SURE YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANT THIS TIME?
I'M POSITIVE.

..AN' ONE OF YOUR SPECIAL RUTABAGA PIES...
THOUGHT YOU HATED 'EM.?
LOVE 'EM.
OH.

WHAT IS THIS STUFF? APRONS! ...FUR CURLERS.?!!... DIDN'T YOU LEAVE ME ANY PARSNIPS?
I HATE 'EM!

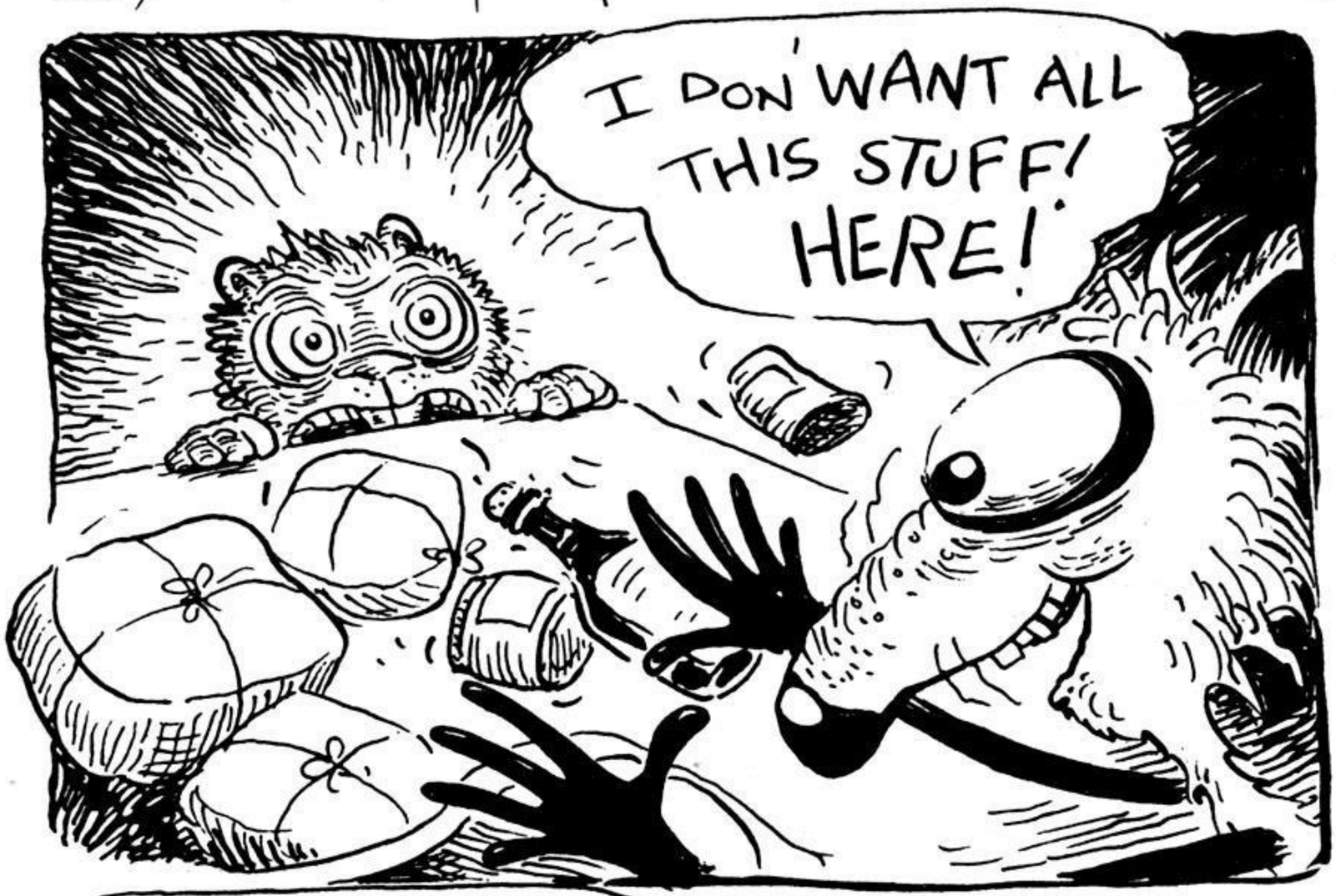
THIS IS WHAT WE NEED?!! ...AND YOU TOOK BACK THE MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS FOR LITTLE FURLEY!!
STOP YELLING!! YOU'LL WAKE HIM UP!
WHERES MY MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS???
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
STAY OUT OF THIS, FURLEY!


I WANT MY MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS!!
YOU TOOK BACK MY PARSNIPS!!
I WANT MY MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS! YOU PROMISED!

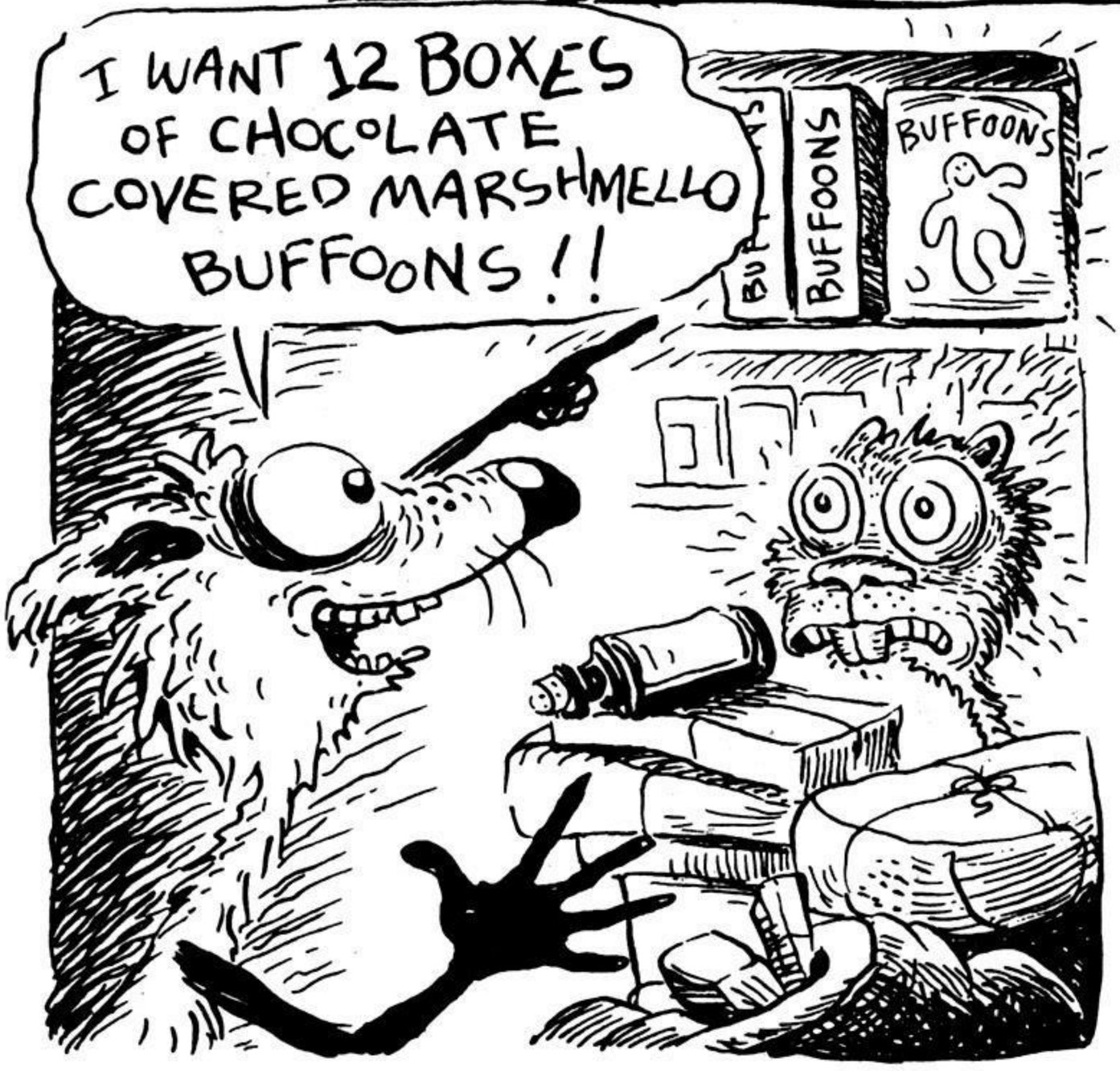
TAKE IT ALL BACK!
I'M NOT TAKING IT BACK!
I WANNA GO; I WANNA TAKE IT BACK!
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!!
LET HIM GO! HE'LL LEARN SOMETHING! ...AND TAKE BACK ALL THIS OTHER STUFF TOO!
OH BOY!

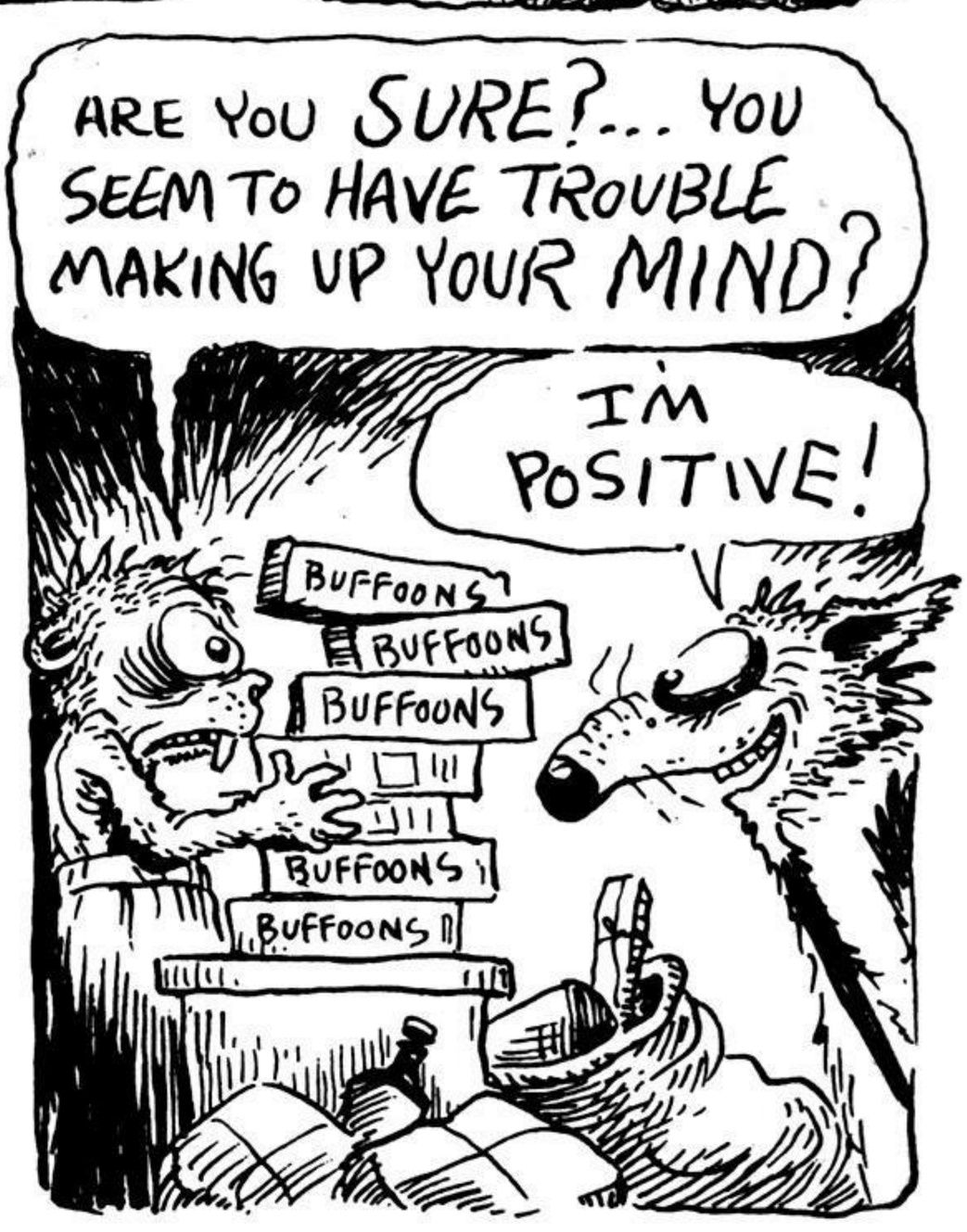
OH BOY!

OH MY GAWWD!! IT'S THAT FUR-BRAINED RACCOON AGAIN!!
SAL
POTATO

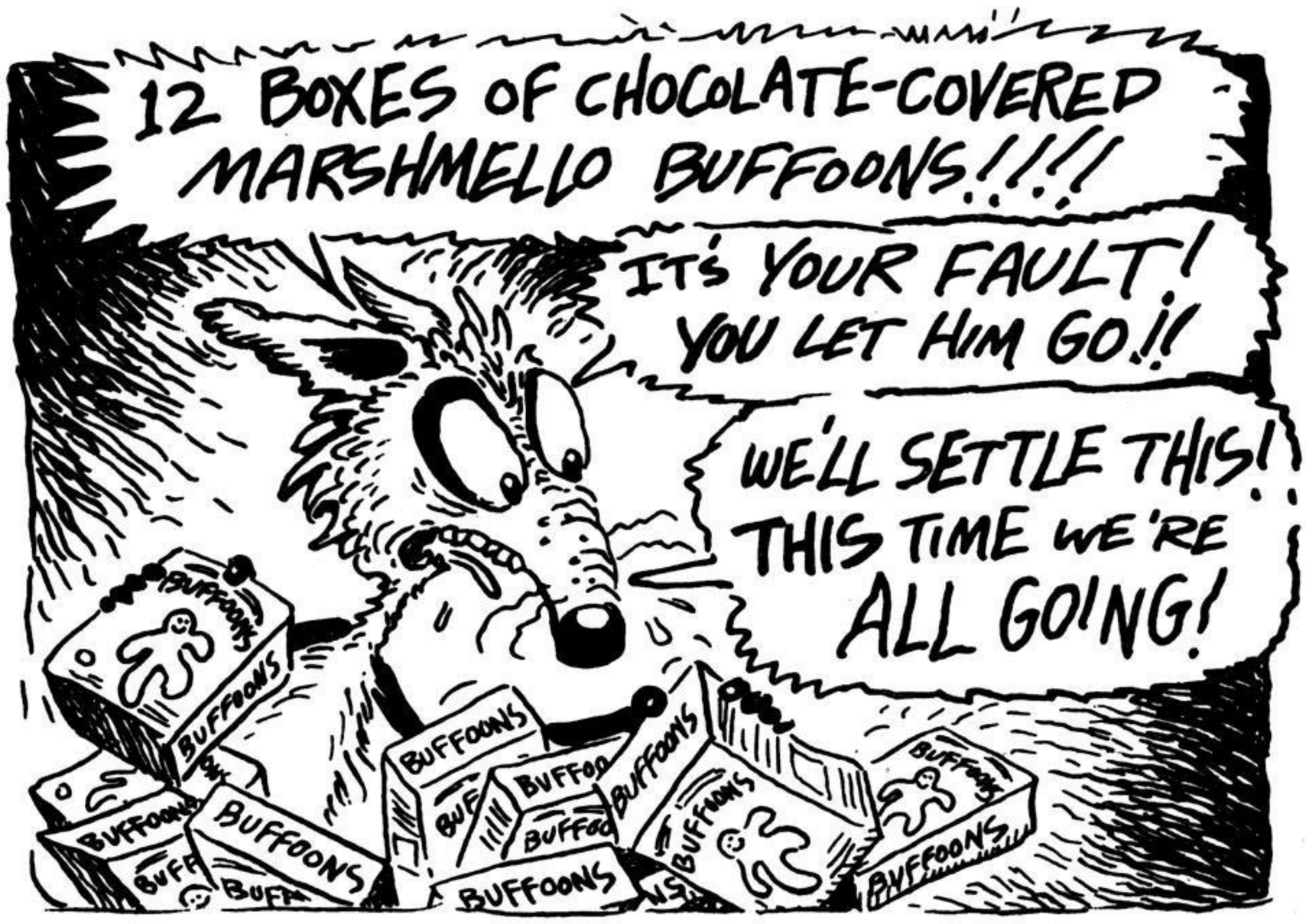

I DON'WANT ALL THIS STUFF! HERE!

WHAT DOOOOO YOU WANT?


I WANT 12 BOXES OF CHOCOLATE COVERED MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS!!
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS


ARE YOU SURE?... YOU SEEM TO HAVE TROUBLE MAKING UP YOUR MIND?
I'M POSITIVE!
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS
BUFFOONS

OH BOY!

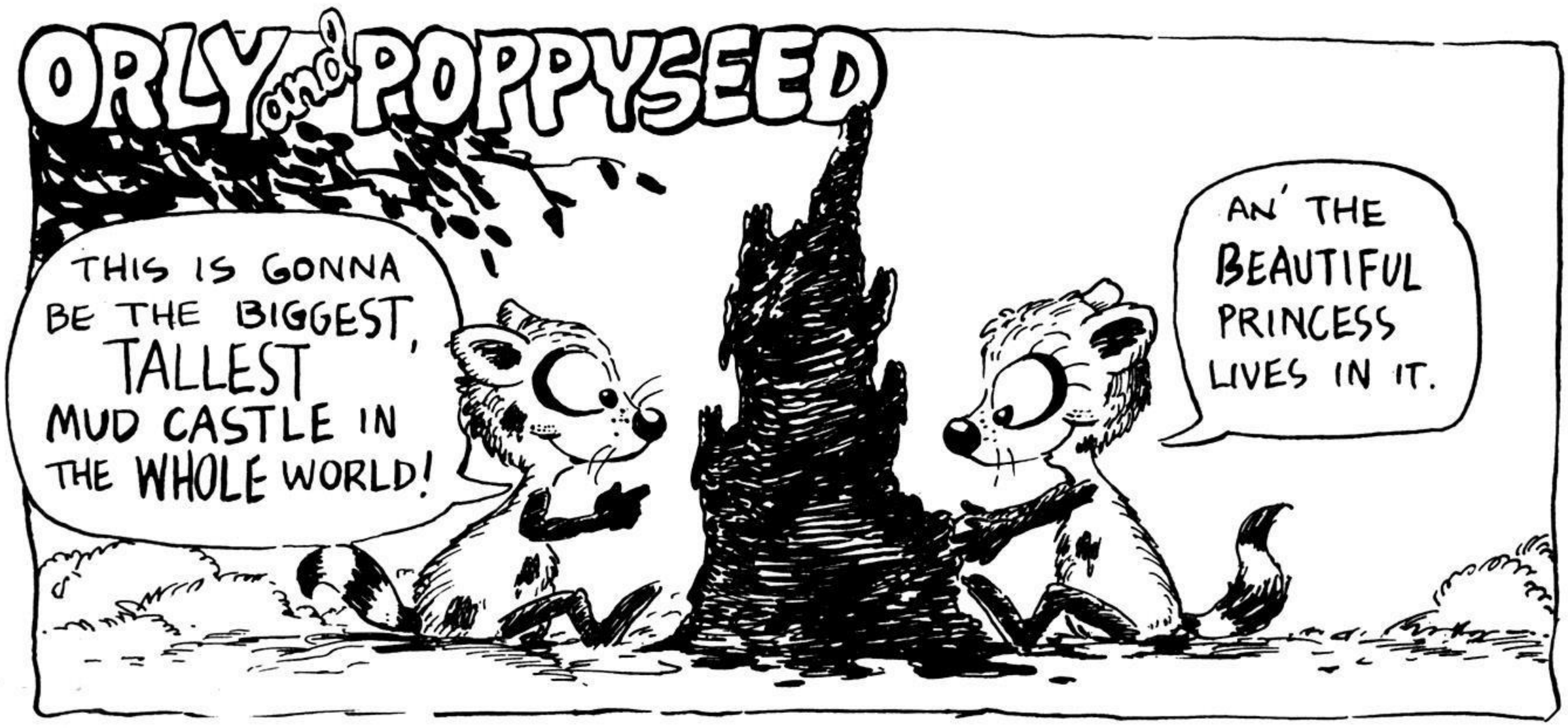

12 BOXES OF CHOCOLATE-COVERED MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS!!!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU LET HIM GO!!
WE'LL SETTLE THIS! THIS TIME WE'RE ALL GOING!
BUFFOONS

WE'LL EACH GET ONE THING WE WANT!
I WANT MY MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS!
YOU GET ONE BOX AND THAT'S IT!!

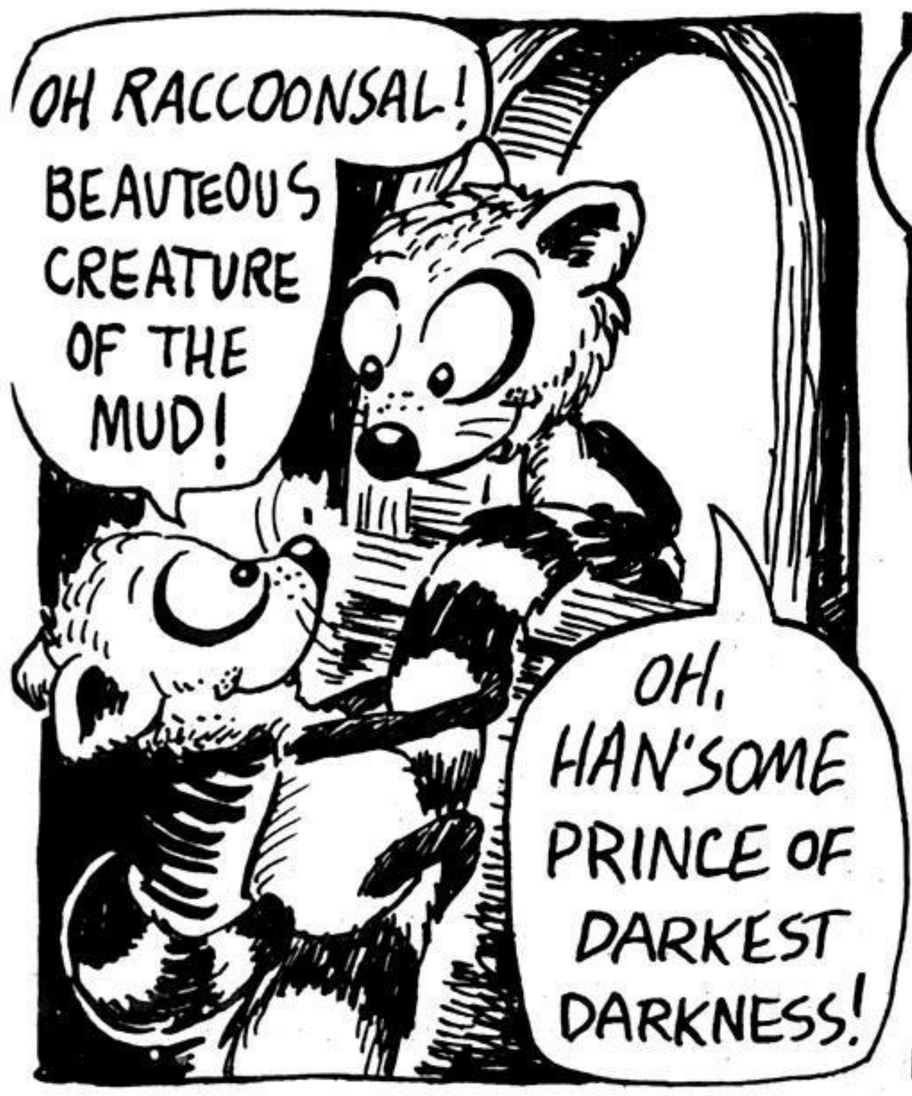
AAAAAKKK! HE'S BACK!!
POTA

BANG! BANG! BANG! SLAM!
USE FRONT DOOR
BEAVER GENERALS
CIAL-
GA PIES
OH NO!
OH BOY! WE GET TO KEEP THE MARSHMELLO BUFFOONS!
AND I WAS ALL SET FOR A RUTABAGA PIE!
I HATE RUTABAGAS!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
CLOSED FOR GOOD!
GONE OUT OF BUSINESS
GONE TO TIMBUKTU!
DON'T COME BACK!
AND NO EXCHANGES TOO!
I HATE THESE THINGS!
MMMMBOY! I LOVE 'EM!
CHOMP
THEY'RE OK, BUT 12 BOXES?
.. OH WELL... WOOVER LIKES 'EM...
END

ORLY and POPPYSEED

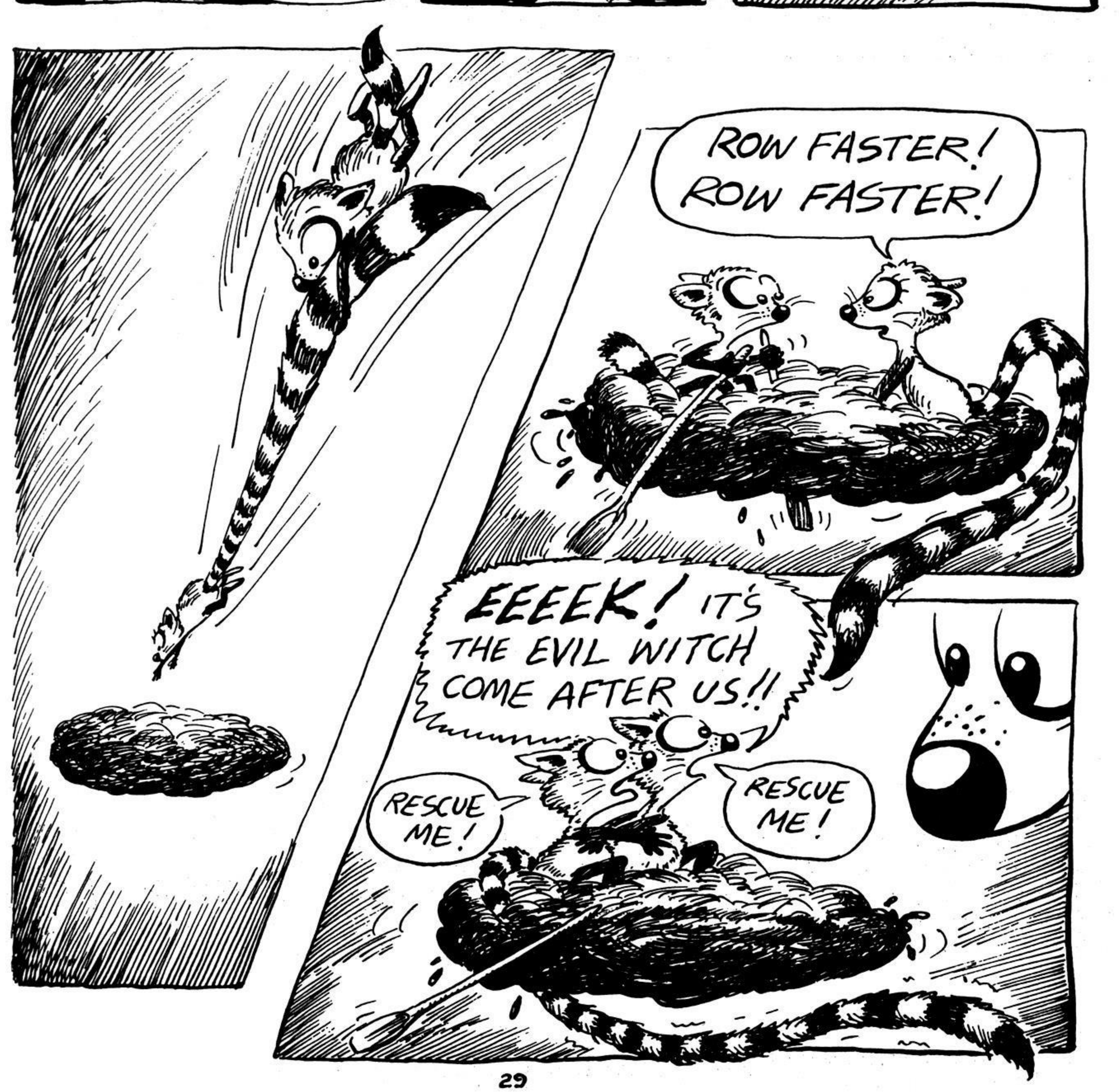


RACCOONSAL! RACCOONSAL! LET DOWN YOUR TAIL!
OH HANSOME PRINCE! CLIMB UP MY TAIL AN' RESCUE ME!
I'LL RESCUE YOU, BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS!


OH RACCOONSAL! BEAUTEOUS CREATURE OF THE MUD!
OH, HAN'SOME PRINCE OF DARKEST DARKNESS!

EEK! THE EVIL WITCH IS COMING!

QUICK! LETS JUMP DOWN TO THAT MUD CLOUD! HOLD ONTO MY TAIL! I'LL RESCUE YOU!


ROW FASTER! ROW FASTER!
EEEEK! IT'S THE EVIL WITCH COME AFTER US!!
RESCUE ME!
RESCUE ME!

SHE'S GONNA EAT US AN' CHEW US UP! HELP! HELP!
OH, COME ON.
RESCUE ME!
RESCUE ME!

HI EZRY! I'M RACCOONSAL AN' I JUST RESCUED THE PRINCE! WANNA PLAY?
NO!
NO! I RESCUED YOU!

AREN'T YOU GUYS EVER GONNA GROW UP AND QUIT PLAYING IN THE MUD?
NOPE! MUD'S GOOD!
END

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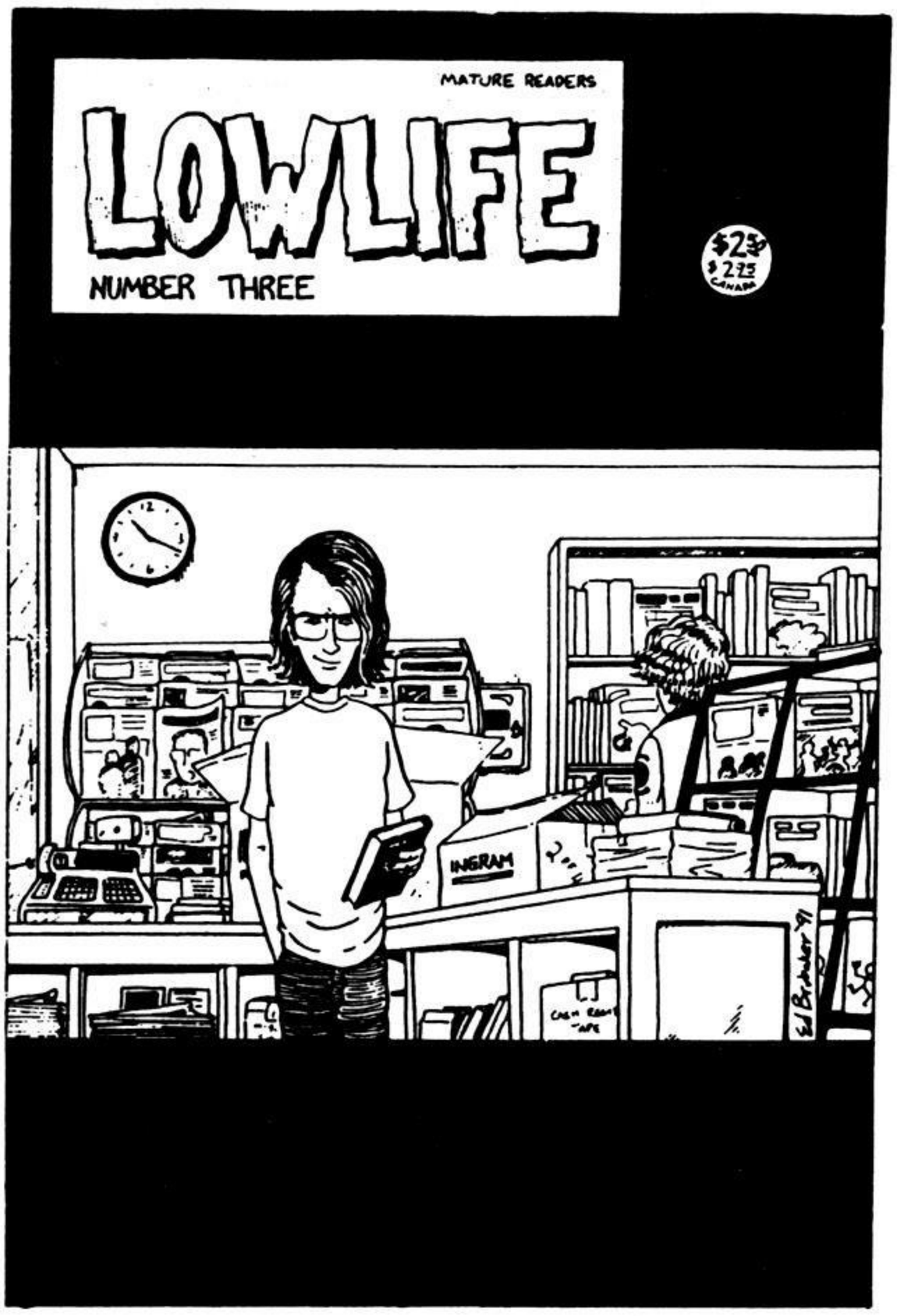
Lowlife is Back!!!



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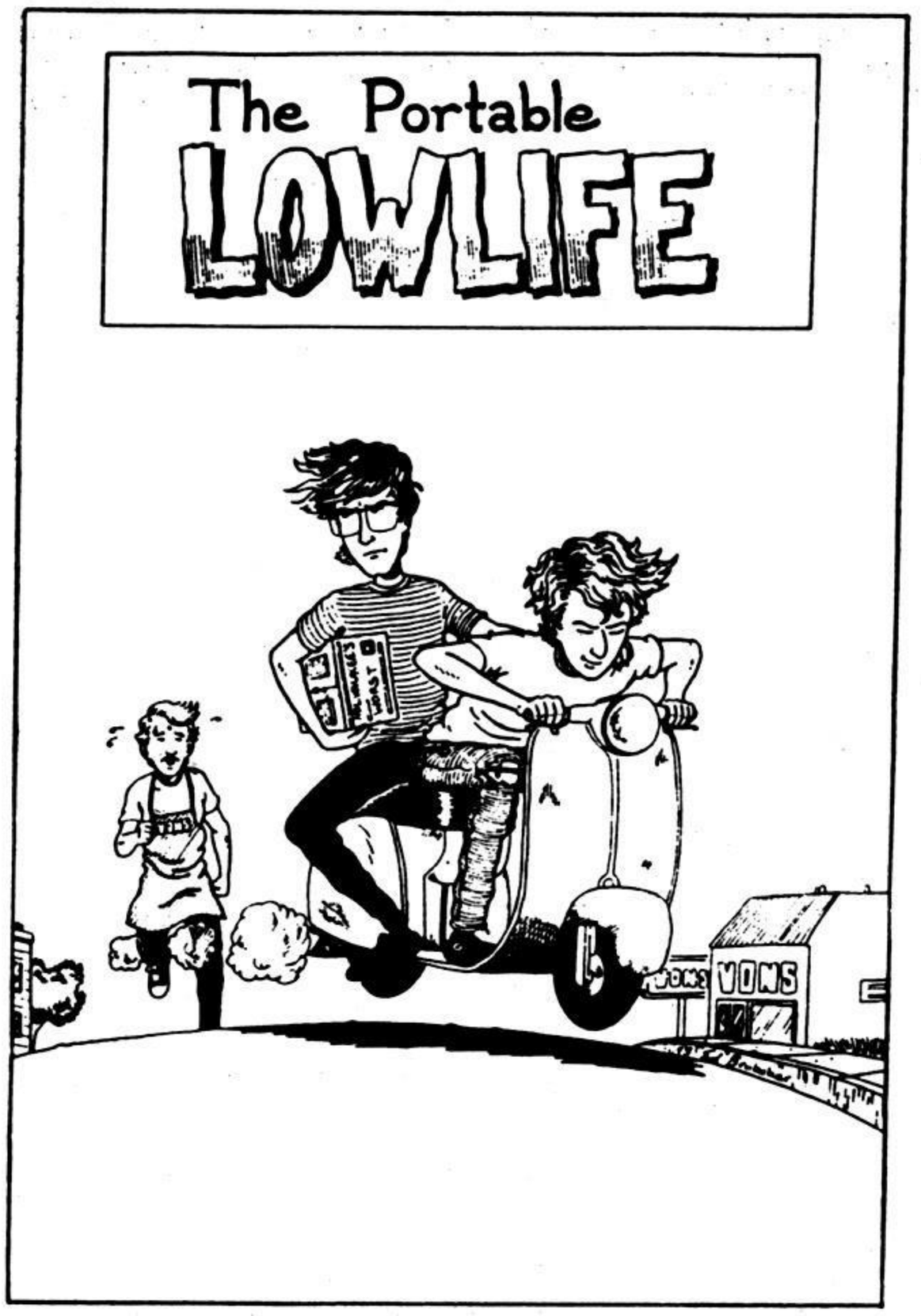
ÆON is proud to announce the return of Ed Brubaker's acclaimed series *Lowlife* in July with Lowlife #3, as well as a special 48-pager: *The Portable Lowlife*.



When it premiered in 1991, *Lowlife* received considerable attention and acclaim. It was written up in *The Village Voice* and *The Comics Journal*, and garnered a Harvey Award nomination for Best New Series of the Year. And the response hasn't stopped yet — recently *Lowlife* was featuerd in *The Utne Reader* (which reproduced a full page of art) and in *The San Francisco Chronicle's Image* magazine. Matt Groening even listed it among his favorite comics in an interview in *Diamond Previews*.

"Brubaker's grimy, monotonous tales of his and his fellow slacker/wastolds' lives have been told with integrity, sincerity, and a truly vicious flair for personalized drama... Brubaker has become a true and necessary artist of his time."

—*The Comics Journal*

"Brubaker delivers the goods in the 2nd issue's full length story... recounting his brief yet paranoid career as a speed freak turned armed robber..."

—*Village Voice*

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	The Portable Lowlife	***$4.95***

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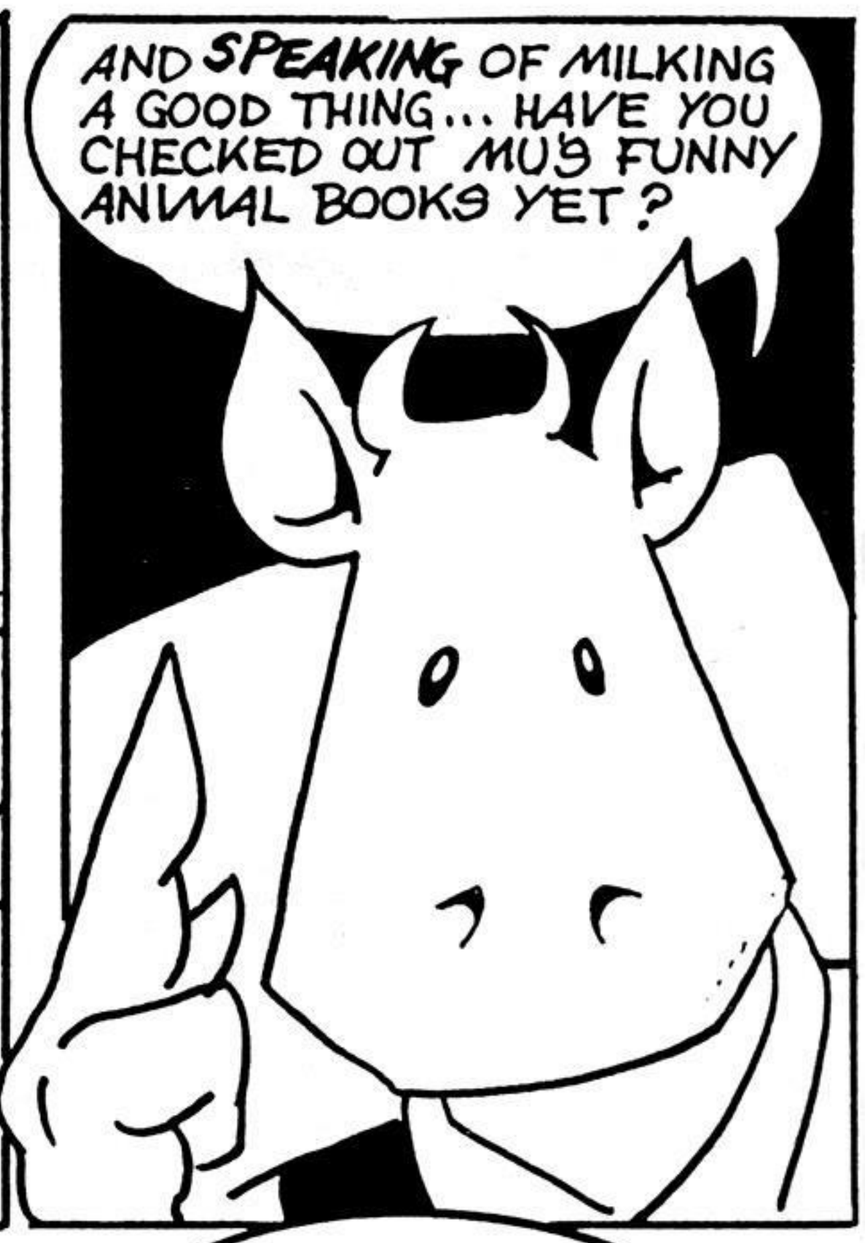

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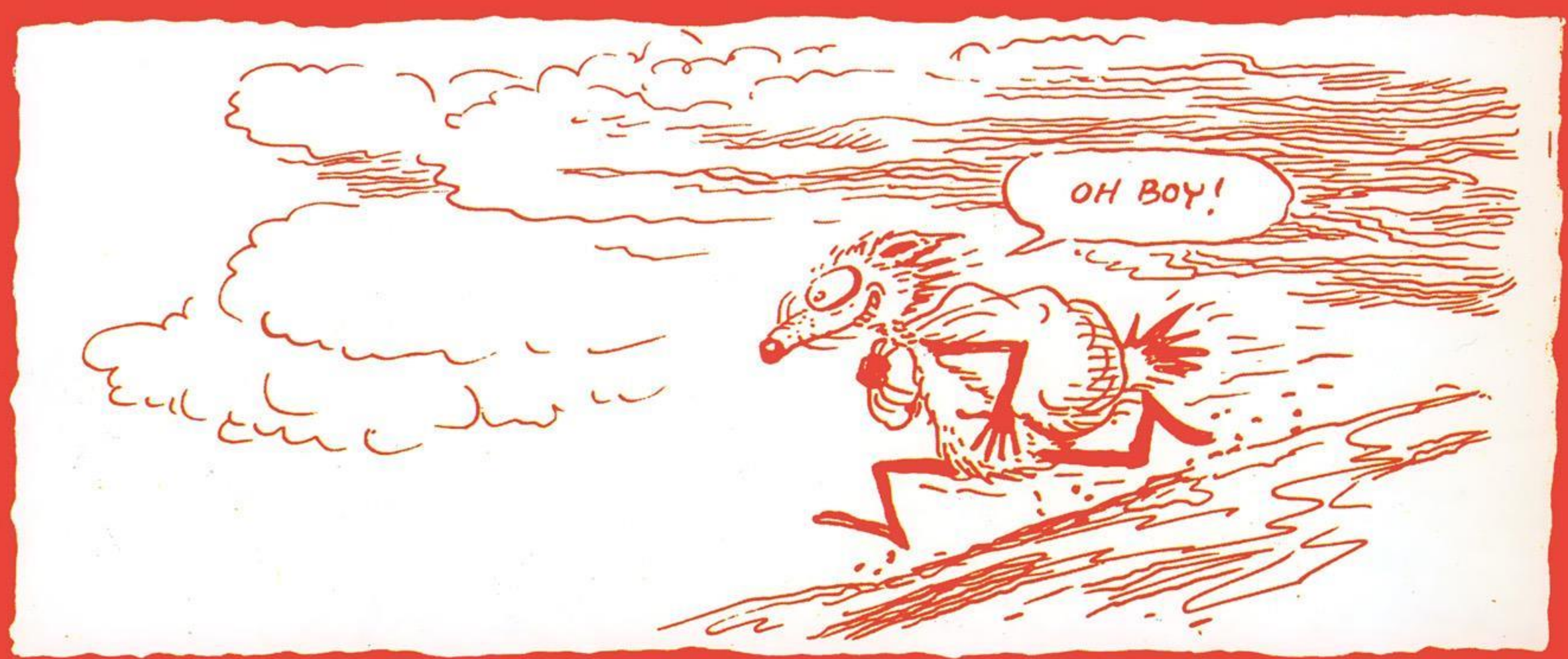
"Mad Raccoons" av Cathy Hill går i egen tidning. Hill tvättbjörnar fyller sidorna med galna upptåg, medan seriens tänkarinslag kommer från den poetiske tvättbjörnen Virgil. Det hela är mycket roligt och snyggt tecknat i en i sina bästa stunder mörk karikatyrstil.

-- Ingemar Bengtsson
Bild & Bubbla*

Her work reminds me inescapably of... Walt Kelly. This is incidentally one of the highest compliments I could possibly pay any funny animal cartoonist.

-- Don Thompson
Comics Buyer's Guide

* "Mad Raccoons" by Cathy Hill have their own comic book,. Hill's book is filled with crazy pranks. and the philosophical contributions come from the poetical raccoon Virgil. All is nicely drawn and -- at its best -- darkly caricaturistic in style.